

ESTABLISHING AN EMISSIONS CONTROL AREA FOR THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND MEXICO

WHEREAS, under Annex VI to the International Convention on Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78), which took effect on May 19, 2005, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted fuel oil standards for ships limiting the sulfur content of fuel oil to 4.5% by weight; and

WHEREAS, the IMO has adopted more restrictive fuel standards for ships in designated Sulfur Emissions Control Areas (SECA) where the sulfur content of fuel oil is limited to 1.5% by weight, and

WHEREAS, the IMO has approved a SECA for the Baltic Sea, which took effect May 19, 2006, and is currently reviewing a proposal for a SECA for the North Sea; and

WHEREAS, the IMO has approved amendments to Annex VI by the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) 57th Session that allow the designation of Emissions Control Areas (ECAs) for SO_x, NO_x, and/or PM; and

WHEREAS, the U.S., Canadian and Mexican ports that are members of the American Association of Port Authorities strive to improve air quality on a continuous basis in and around their ports; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of air emissions from vessels would result in significant air quality improvements at U.S., Canadian and Mexican ports; and

WHEREAS, the governments of the United States and Canada plan to submit an application to the IMO to amend Annex VI to designate a joint US/Canada ECA by April 2009; and

WHEREAS, said application will be considered at the next MEPC meeting of the IMO in **March/April 2010**; and

WHEREAS, the goal for a joint US/Canada ECA to enter into force is August 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska will be considered for inclusion in a future amendment to the treaty establishing the ECA once the necessary technical work has been completed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the American Association of Port Authorities strongly urges the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, to seek the designation of the entirety of the United States, Canada

and Mexico as an ECA for all three pollutants (SO_x, NO_x, & PM) under MARPOL Annex VI and to implement authorizing legislation as soon as practicable thereafter.

**New Resolution
Recommended for Adoption by the Harbors, Navigation & Environment
Committee**