

January 17, 2019

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1111 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer,

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) strongly supports your Rebuild America Act, which would raise the gasoline and diesel taxes by 25 cents over five years, index the amount to inflation, and expresses the sense of Congress that the gas tax should be replaced with a more sustainable funding source within 10 years. From a port and freight perspective, your legislation will help the U.S. economy better compete in the world marketplace. However, AAPA would like to see multimodal eligibility in any new funding provided for infrastructure programs.

AAPA is the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas, representing more than 130 public port authorities in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America. This letter is on behalf of our U.S. members. Seaports deliver vital goods and services to consumers, ship U.S. exports, create jobs and support local and national economic growth. Seaports are vital economic engines whose cargo activity supports over 23 million American jobs and accounts for over a quarter of the U.S. economy. In 2014, U.S. seaports generated nearly \$4.6 trillion in total economic activity.

While we strongly support your legislation and efforts to fully fund the Highway Trust Fund, AAPA members wish to point out that for port infrastructure to be fully integrated and efficient, multimodal eligibility is essential. AAPA recommends that new funding for infrastructure projects should have multimodal eligibility.

For example, the immediate challenges confronting the freight programs include funding levels and project eligibility. The current freight programs are funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, which means that eligible projects are primarily highway focused. Highways are important to our freight network, but ports are multimodal facilitators, meaning rail, trucks and ships all need access to ports. One could argue that as the nation's supply chain becomes more sophisticated and new inland distribution centers emerge with the advent of e-commerce, multimodal funding will become even more in demand. Last year, AAPA identified more than \$20 billion in multimodal needs for public port authorities alone over the next decade. A top priority for the port industry continues to be multimodal funding.

We look forward to working with you to address current and future funding opportunities for infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle  
President and CEO