

June 13, 2017

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
House Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Homeland Security
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) Supports Increasing the Port Security Grant Program Funding Level to \$400 million

Dear Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Thompson,

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) strongly supports Congresswoman Barragán's amendment to increase the Port Security Grant Program authorized level to \$400 million, the original authorized level for this program.

There is a clear concern for ensuring that our nation's ports are secure. During the last year and a half the House Homeland Security Committee and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee have convened no less than three hearings focused on port security. And for good reason. Today, international trade through seaports accounts for more than a quarter of the U.S. economy—and is projected to reach 60 percent by 2030. At the center of trade and transportation are America's seaports, which handle approximately \$6 billion worth of import and export goods daily, generate more than 23 million jobs, and provide more than \$320 billion in tax revenues.

Since 9/11, the Port Security Grant Program has been an important component in helping seaports harden security and protect vital transportation hubs, maritime borders, our economic supply chain and our communities. The federal government must continue its efforts to secure seaports, which serve as international borders into our country for cargo, as well as international cruise and ferry passengers.

AAPA thanks Rep. Barragán for her leadership on port security and strongly encourages the Committee to accept her amendment.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO

Cc: The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragan

AAPA



**American Association
of Port Authorities**

Alliance of the Ports of Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States

Seaports
Deliver
Prosperity