

October 19, 2015

The Honorable Harold D. Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) has great concerns over the recent sanctuary city amendment offered during the full Committee markup of the FY 2016 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill. The amendment would make localities that have sanctuary city ordinances in place ineligible to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) state and local program grants. This would impact the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) that our ports rely on to protect our communities and secure the economic supply chain. We ask that you remove this language from the final FY 2016 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

AAPA is the unified and collective voice of the seaport industry in the Americas. Seaports are vital to our nation's security and economy. Cargo activity at seaports accounts for 26% of the U.S. economy, generates over 23 million American jobs, and provides over \$320 billion in local, state and federal tax revenues. This letter is on behalf of our U.S. member ports.

Since 9/11, the PSGP has been an important component in helping seaports harden security and protect these vital transportation hubs. Our members work closely with both local and federal authorities, addressing a multitude of security challenges ranging from safely and securely handling 1.3 billion metric tons of imported and exported cargo worth nearly \$1.75 trillion dollars in 2013, a growing cruise industry that transports millions of people into and out of our country, as well as emerging threats in cybersecurity.

All ports, as maritime borders, must be protected and secure, and should be eligible for PSGP support. Withholding federal resources from any part of America's port system would harm national security, and severely handicap how we protect our ports and keep our communities and economy safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt J. Nagle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Committee