

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) is writing to express strong support for public seaports' applications in the FY 2019 Department of Transportation's Port Infrastructure Development Program. AAPA has been a strong advocate for dedicated grant funds for ports, and we are very excited by this first-year money.

Founded in 1912, AAPA is the unified and collective voice of the seaport industry in the Americas. AAPA empowers port authorities, maritime industry partners and service providers to serve their global customers and create economic and social value for their communities. Our activities, resources, and partnerships connect, inform and unify seaport leaders and maritime professionals in all segments of the industry around the Western Hemisphere. Our letter today is on behalf of our U.S. members.

The new Port Infrastructure Development grants are a timely opportunity to improve the infrastructure of all deep-draft ports, both large and small. Congress crafted this year's funding to ensure that varying size ports could compete. Our nation depends on a variety of ports to handle our nation's imports, exports and domestic maritime cargo, ranging from large container ports to ports that handle break-bulk, bulk, and project cargo. All have essential infrastructure needs and are vital to serving manufacturers, farmers, and consumers in their regions and across America. In making awards we urge you to consider the diversity of cargo and regions where ports serve as crucial transportation hubs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO