

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairman  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
SD-410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
c/o Staff Director/Chief Counsel Bettina Poirier

The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
c/o Staff Director Christopher Bertram

Dear Chairmen Boxer and Shuster:

AAPA congratulates you and the Conference Committee on successfully negotiating and issuing the report on the Water Resources Reform Development Act. This critical legislation is a major benefit to America's seaports and will enable the United States to advance its maritime infrastructure to continue as a world leader in global trade.

Your excellent joint and bipartisan leadership on WRRDA was recognized at AAPA's Spring Conference when we named you co-recipients of our annual Port Person of the Year award. You both chose to postpone receiving the award until the WRRDA bill was completed, so now we look forward to formally presenting your well-deserved awards in person at your convenience.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on addressing the infrastructure needs of seaports and their connecting infrastructure throughout the United States. Please let me know whenever AAPA can be of assistance to your efforts.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle  
President and CEO



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

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Ports Welcome 2014 WRRDA Conference Committee Report**

#### ***AAPA CEO Nagle says port-related infrastructure key to U.S. competitiveness***

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (May 15, 2014) — The [American Association of Port Authorities](#) (AAPA) today welcomed news that the House-Senate conference committee has completed negotiations and issued its report on the long-awaited and critically-needed water resources development legislation. Upon learning the [2014 Water Resources and Reform Development Act](#) (WRRDA) is on its way to Congress for approval, AAPA immediately sent appreciation and congratulations to conference committee leaders Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA) for their bipartisan leadership in bringing a negotiated water resources bill to the floor of Congress.

Both Sen. Boxer and Rep. Shuster were jointly named AAPA's "Port Person of the Year" in March for advancing this crucial legislation, although both chose to wait to receive their award until the bill made it successfully out of conference for a final vote of Congress.

In addition to Rep. Shuster and Sen. Boxer, AAPA lauded Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Ranking Member David Vitter (R-LA), together with House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member (Nick) Rahall (D-WV), House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman (Bob) Gibbs (R-OH) and Ranking Member (Tim) Bishop (D-NY), for their unified support in moving this important bill toward a floor vote.

"Having waited seven long years since passage of the last water resources authorization bill, our U.S. member ports are extremely pleased to see a final reauthorization bill," said [AAPA President and CEO Kurt Nagle](#). "Our nation desperately needs this water resources legislation to fortify our infrastructure, create and maintain good-paying U.S. jobs, grow our economy and enhance America's international competitiveness."

Mr. Nagle noted that more than a quarter of America's annual GDP is accounted for by international trade. "In order to strengthen the U.S. economy, we must ensure these goods can move efficiently in and out of America's ports, without avoidable and costly delays caused by

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inadequate or poorly maintained infrastructure. The WRRDA authorization bill helps some of the critical waterside needs facing this nation.”

The bipartisan water resources legislation has a number of provisions that address the needs of America’s seaports. In particular, it:

- Establishes a pathway to full use of the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT);
- Addresses HMT donor equity;
- Modernizes the maintenance dredging cost-share threshold;
- Authorizes new navigation channel improvements;
- Expedites the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ navigation channel study completion process;
- Quickens the pace of project completions by enhancing partnerships.

“The bottom line,” said Mr. Nagle, “is this WRRDA bill will help enable the United States to enhance its maritime infrastructure and strengthen its position as a world leader in global trade. AAPA thanks the bipartisan leadership and urges swift final passage and enactment.”

He added, “By finalizing the 2014 WRRDA, conference committee members have demonstrated they recognize the significant benefits more modern, efficient seaport and waterway infrastructure will have on our nation’s economic vitality, job growth and international competitiveness, as well as the value in helping address federal fiscal realities through sizable tax revenues provided by the cargo and trade activity moving through these systems. Increased investments are needed to better maintain and improve the transportation infrastructure on our three coasts and the Great Lakes, linking America to the global marketplace.”

Summarizing, Mr. Nagle said, “America’s public ports – which create jobs for more than 13 million people and handle 99.4 percent of the tonnage of our nation’s overseas trade – together with their private-sector partners are investing over \$9 billion annually in marine terminal infrastructure. We look forward to Congressional passage and President Obama signing this legislation, which will make important policy reforms and authorize badly needed maintenance and improvements to waterside connections with seaports.”

### About AAPA

*Founded in 1912, AAPA today represents 150 of the leading seaport authorities in the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean and more than 250 sustaining and associate members, firms and individuals with an interest in seaports. As a critical link for access to the global marketplace, each year Western Hemisphere seaports generate \$8.6 trillion of economic activity, support the employment of tens of millions of people and import and export more than 7.8 billion tons of cargo including food, clothing, medicine, fuel and building materials, as well as consumer electronics and toys. To meet the growing demand for trade, the AAPA and its members are committed to keeping seaports navigable, secure and sustainable. For more information, visit [www.aapa-ports.org](http://www.aapa-ports.org).*

**~Seaports Deliver Prosperity~**