

September 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Minority Leader Schumer:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) commends you for your leadership in getting water infrastructure legislation through your respective chambers. AAPA would like to express its support for America's Water Infrastructure Act (AIWA) and urge you to quickly take up and pass the legislation. AIWA will continue the biennial process of water resources legislation to authorize navigation channel improvements, expedite engineering and design for qualifying projects and approve new channel improvement studies. The legislation also streamlines Corps of Engineers processes, empowers nonfederal-led studies and construction work and increases stakeholder participation in Corps policy development.

American seaport activity accounts for over a quarter of the economy and supports more than 23 million American jobs. Seaports are economic engines and vital freight gateways to the global marketplace for American farmers, manufacturers, and serve as critical infrastructure for the U.S. military. Our nation's ability to address the trade needs of both today and the future are at risk. Seaport infrastructure investments are good for ports and good for the nation.

AIWA legislation provides the foundation for investments in America's 21st century maritime infrastructure enabling the U.S. to continue to be globally competitive in foreign trade – a key to expanding U.S. jobs and growing our nation's economy. AAPA strongly supports your leadership to improve our nation's maritime infrastructure, and we urge you to quickly take up and pass the AIWA legislation.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle
President & CEO