

December 7, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
c/o Matt Sturges

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
c/o Kathy Dedrick

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) is writing to voice its strong support for the water resources bill conference report and commends you for your leadership in reaching an agreement. AAPA urges Congress to make this important legislation a priority and to pass the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act.

AAPA represents public ports throughout the Western Hemisphere including major U.S. port authorities on the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes coasts and works with Congress to secure investments and programs to aid these important maritime transportation assets. Seaport cargo activity accounts for over a quarter of U.S. GDP, supports more than 23 million jobs, and generates over \$320 billion a year in local, state and federal tax revenues.

AAPA strongly supports the WIIN Act and your leadership in returning to the previous practice of passing new water resources development legislation every two years. We applaud your continuing efforts to streamline and reform processes for efficient and cost effective navigation channel maintenance and improvements. These efforts are an essential component to align with port and private sector investments for building our nation's 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure and growing the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,



Kurt Nagle  
President & CEO

cc: Water Resources and Environment Staff  
Geoff Bowman, Majority Staff Director  
Ryan Seiger, Minority Staff Director  
Victor Sarmiento, Staff Assistant