

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2018

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

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

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Shuster, and Ranking Member DeFazio:

As Congress and the Administration consider options to invest in our country's infrastructure, we urge you to consider the unique multimodal and waterside needs of America's ports in this discussion.

Our national supply chain begins at ports. Therefore, we hope any infrastructure package will include the necessary funding for our nation's seaports. It is paramount that we provide our ports with the resources they need to both maintain and improve their infrastructure and the national freight network.

In recent years, Congress has shown its willingness to support port-related infrastructure projects. In 2015, the FAST Act was signed into law, which included dedicated programs for freight infrastructure projects and asked states to develop freight plans. In addition, the WRRDA bill of 2014 put us on a path for full use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) resources. While these laws represent major steps forward, they alone will not modernize our multimodal goods-movement network. Of the \$11 billion authorized in the FAST Act for freight investment, only \$1.13 billion is eligible for multimodal projects needed at ports. This amount has dwindled to \$275 million after several rounds of FASTLane and INFRA grants. Ports need a multimodal funding source to sustain investments in our critical freight infrastructure.

The American Association of Port Authorities has identified \$66 billion in infrastructure needs for federal investment at our seaports to improve the flow of cargo as it heads to its final destination. These investments, both on land and in the water, will help alleviate congestion in crowded metropolitan areas, hasten the adoption of low or zero-emissions freight technology, and make U.S. seaports more competitive. Multimodal infrastructure funding for seaports and freight gateways, as well as full use of the HMTF with provisions to ensure donor equity will build upon our ports' successful efforts to maximize the impact of federal infrastructure funds with state, local, and private-sector resources.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to reach out to us to discuss infrastructure needs at United States ports.

Sincerely,



Alan S. Lowenthal
Co-Chair, PORTS Caucus



Ted Poe
Co-Chair, PORTS Caucus



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Scott Taylor
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond
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Denny Heck
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Filemon Vela
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Barbara Lee
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