

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) is writing to express its strong support for public seaports' applications for this year's Marine Highway Program, administered by the Maritime Administration (MARAD). AAPA strongly supports integrating marine highway services and ports into the nation's surface transportation system to expand marine highway services.

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 Marine Highway Program and projects will make real improvements in our nation's maritime transportation system and needed investments in our freight infrastructure. AAPA supports the development of marine highways that alleviate highway congestion, provide important system redundancy and improve environmental sustainability.

As the Department of Transportation begins to evaluate applications for this year's Marine Highway Program, we support the continuing resources for marine projects and targeted investments. These investments will help maintain and expand the maritime infrastructure that is so critical to U.S. exports and imports, which are vital to our nation's economy, standard of living and U. S. jobs.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO