



TRANSITION TEAM ISSUES FOR FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION November 25, 2008

Seaports Deliver Prosperity

For centuries, seaports have served as a vital economic lifeline by bringing goods and services to people around the world. Seaports continue to be a critical link for access to the global marketplace and are doing this in a safe and economically sustainable way. Seaports:

- Deliver the goods and allow for choice
- Create new high-paying jobs and sustain current employment (some of the highest paid union jobs in the nation)
- Serve U.S. consumers, businesses, the U.S. military, and U.S. exporters
- Are key gateways to cargo imported and exported from the U.S.

Modern Navigable Seaports are Vital to International Trade and Economic Prosperity

- Investing federal, state, local, and private resources into seaport infrastructure – waterways, highways, rail and marine terminals – is imperative to meet the needs of exporters, consumers, and the economic demands of our nation.

Seaports Must Balance the Pursuit of Economic Prosperity with Protecting Natural Resources and Securing our Nation's Borders

- Seaports are investing millions of dollars to significantly reduce the environmental impact on surrounding communities and natural resources. U.S. seaports are engaging in cutting-edge programs and initiatives that will protect water, air and soil.
- Security is one of the highest priorities for U.S. ports. Protecting the people and freight that move through seaports and surrounding communities is essential to keeping seaports safe and open for business. U.S. ports collaborate with both government officials and private-sector security experts to maintain and enhance seaport security.

Antitrust Immunity is Critical

- The ability of ports to meet collectively, with antitrust immunity under the Shipping Act, is extremely important.
- Ports and marine terminal operators effectively coordinate on a variety of important issues, including clean air initiatives, labor allocation, and the collection of fees to fund security enhancements.
- AAPA believes that the 1998 amendments to the Shipping Act have worked well, and meet the needs of the U.S. public port community as well as U.S. trade.
- The Shipping Act strikes the appropriate balance between providing antitrust immunity in this unique industry while providing regulatory protection through the Shipping Act to prevent anticompetitive or monopolistic behavior.

Selection of Knowledgeable FMC Commissioners is Key

- The selection of qualified Commissioners, with knowledge and experience in the maritime industry, should be a priority for the Obama Administration.