



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. Each year, seaports throughout the Western Hemisphere generate trillions of dollars of economic activity, support the employment of millions of people, and import and export more than 4.5 billion tons of cargo, including food, clothing, medicine, fuel and building materials, as well as consumer electronics and toys. The volume of cargo shipped by water is expected to dramatically increase by 2020 and the number of passengers traveling through our seaports will continue to grow. To meet these demands American Association of Port Authorities and its members are committed to keeping seaports navigable, secure and sustainable.

Why Seaports are Vital to the Economy

- ✓ **Seaports deliver the goods and allow for choice.** From your morning coffee to the shoes on your feet, nearly everything we use comes through a seaport. Because of seaports, consumers have less expensive options for purchasing food, clothing, medicine, fuel, and building materials, as well as consumer electronics and toys.
- ✓ **Seaports can create new high-paying jobs and sustain current employment.** Seaports and the businesses they support provide some of the highest paying union jobs in the country, paying significantly more than other areas of the economy. These jobs, 13.3 million of which are *in America*, provide strong family wages for American workers.
- ✓ **Fast-increasing exports of American-made goods through America's seaports to overseas buyers are helping buoy the U.S. economy** with export sales amounting to almost \$234 billion in the first half of 2008—34.7% higher than in the first half of 2007.
- ✓ **Seaports invest significantly in our economy and infrastructure.** Infrastructure improvements that help to enhance the movement of goods flowing into and out of our country is good for America.
- ✓ **Seaports help propel billions of dollars in business income and spending annually.** Of the \$3.15 trillion of total economic output attributed to U.S. maritime activities in 2007, \$73.5 billion was the revenue from businesses dependent on seaports.
- ✓ **America's seaports are investing in excess of \$2 billion a year in marine terminal capital improvements** that are helping them handle freight and cruise passengers more efficiently.
- ✓ **Private equity groups and other financial interests are investing in America's seaports** because seaports represent a stable source of long-term revenue.



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Modern, navigable seaports are vital to international trade and economic prosperity

- From your morning coffee to the shoes on your feet, nearly everything we use comes through a seaport. Ports also serve as transit points for millions of cruise passengers and U.S. military equipment.
- Because of seaports, everyone from farmers to small business owners to large-scale manufacturers can compete and thrive in a global marketplace. In these uncertain economic times, exports are more important than ever. More than 1/3 of America's economic growth in 2007 was derived from exports.

Safe and secure seaport facilities are fundamental to both protecting our borders and moving goods

- Seaport security is critical to economic growth and vitality.
- AAPA and its members are committed to working closely with federal, state and local government officials, as well as private-sector security experts, to enhance port security.
- AAPA-member seaports are investing billions of dollars into security improvements and related expenses to keep people, goods, equipment and infrastructure safe and secure.
- The Department of Homeland Security's Port Security Grants program is vital in helping to keep U.S. seaports safe, secure and open for business.

- Investing federal, state, local and private resources into seaports' infrastructure – waterways, rail, highways and terminals – is imperative for meeting both consumer and economic demands.
- AAPA and its members favor policies which enhance, rather than restrict, free and open trade in the Western Hemisphere.

Seaports are investing millions of dollars to significantly reduce the environmental impact on communities and natural resources

- Seaports are actively working to protect the environment by mitigating the impacts of their growth and initiating environmental enhancement projects.
- Seaports are working to control emissions through retrofitting legacy equipment, using cleaner fuels, improving operational efficiency, and purchasing new electric and battery-powered equipment – on their own and through EPA's Diesel Emission Reduction Act , for which funding should be increased.
- Many seaports have implemented programs for reducing or eliminating soil and groundwater contamination from entering waterways around their facilities through increased tree planting, soil testing and filtering stormwater runoff.
- AAPA is working to ensure the establishment of strong international and national ballast water management