



Alliance of the Ports of Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States



**TRANSITION TEAM ISSUES FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
American Association of Port Authorities
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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 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 and businesses, the U.S. military and U.S. exporters
- Are key gateways to cargo imported and exported from the U.S.
- Seaports are investing millions of dollars to significantly reduce the environmental impact on surrounding communities and natural resources

Modern Navigable Seaports are Vital to International Trade and Economic Prosperity

- Investments in seaport infrastructure are needed, will help our nation on our road to economic recovery, and are imperative for meeting exporter, consumer, and economic demands of the nation
- Federal navigation channels at America's ports are not being maintained at their authorized depths and/or widths, impacting safety and competitiveness of US exports
- Channel maintenance is fully funded by channel users through the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT), but HMT revenues are not being fully utilized for their intended purpose of maintaining navigation channels
- Increased investments in improvements to navigation channels (deepening, widening) are necessary to keep the U.S. competitive in the global economy

Efficient Movement of Freight Needs to Be a High Priority

- The nation needs a cohesive freight policy to alleviate freight congestion and plan for future growth expected from increases in international trade
- For ports, intermodal connectors and rail crossings are critical to the efficient movement of the nation's ever-growing volume of trade

Support the Marine Transportation System

- Continue the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Committee
- Continue the Committee on the Marine Transportation System
- Serve as a cabinet level advocate for coordinating trade promotion and transportation infrastructure investment policies

Full Funding of NOAA's Navigation Products Will Help Facilitate Commerce

- Electronic Navigational Charts and the Physical Oceanographic Real Time Systems (PORTS) are essential to the protection of life and property and the enhancement of marine efficiency
- AAPA supports full funding of NOAA's aids to navigation