

COALITION FOR MORE EFFICIENT PORTS

January 3, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you develop a national strategy to make crucial investments in America's national infrastructure, we urge you not to overlook America's ports. Outdated infrastructure at our nation's ports threatens to interrupt the supply chain and ultimately the American economy. This critical infrastructure challenge must be met by increased public and private investment in U.S. ports.

As you are aware, ports play a vital role for our economy, serving as the entryway to over 90 percent of America's trade. According to the American Association of Port Authorities, during 2015, U.S. ports supported 23 million jobs and generated more than \$321 billion in tax revenue. According to the Business Roundtable, underinvestment in ports results in increased prices and lost economic opportunity – as much as tens of billions of dollars every year.

In addition to their economic impact, U.S. ports play a strategic role in our national defense and emergency preparedness. From Operation Enduring Freedom to recovery operations after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, America's ports help ensure the success of America's military and emergency responders.

Unfortunately, traditional federal infrastructure funding programs are generally not comprehensive enough to support the size and scale of the investments needed at U.S. ports. Most port infrastructure investment is now made by private, state, and local sources—which means that investments often lack the necessary strategic and targeted approach that only the federal government can provide. Your infrastructure package represents a historic opportunity to recalibrate U.S. infrastructure policy to ensure the future success of U.S. ports in a way that is commensurate with their economic and strategic importance.

Our industry has a long track record of leveraging public investment with significant private dollars, and we stand ready to work with your Administration and Congress to address America's infrastructure needs.

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Thank you for your leadership on this issue of national importance.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)

Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

Port of Long Beach

Port of Los Angeles

Ports America Group, Inc.

Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)

SSA Marine, Inc.

cc:

The Honorable Elaine Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury

The Honorable Gary Cohn, Director, National Economic Council