

May 30, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590
c/o Director Georgette.Brammer@dot.gov

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As America continues on its path to economic recovery and answers the President's call to double U.S. exports, the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program is important in addressing the challenges that face our goods movement system. In particular, inadequate infrastructure investment in and connectivity to America's seaports is creating bottlenecks in the intermodal transportation system, which is resulting in congestion, delays, productivity losses, and a global economic disadvantage for our country. Ensuring that seaports are well-maintained, with adequate capacity and congestion-free port access, is critical to continuing and enhancing America's role as a leader in the global economy.

As the Department of Transportation begins the process of awarding TIGER grants for FY 2013, the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) urges you to consider the importance of seaports and the greater maritime industry during your deliberations. AAPA represents the leading public port authorities in the Western Hemisphere, and this letter reflects the position of our U.S. members.

AAPA supports the TIGER grants program because it helps fund multi-modal infrastructure projects, including port infrastructure, access to terminals, and other supporting improvements. In the absence of dedicated federal funding for port infrastructure improvements, AAPA strongly recommends that a minimum of 25 percent of TIGER funding be dedicated to port-related infrastructure needs.

America's seaports serve as our economic lifeline and critical link to the global marketplace. More than 13 million American jobs and over a quarter of our GDP are accounted for through international trade. Ensuring a modern, well-maintained maritime transportation system must be a national priority on par with sustaining the infrastructures of other modes of transit.

By supporting funding for seaport priorities, and dedicating at least 25 percent of TIGER funds to port terminal infrastructure, landside access to port facilities, and other supporting improvements, you have the ability to create and sustain jobs, help our economic recovery, improve Americans' quality of life, and ensure that America remains globally competitive.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Very sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO
KJN:KP/lsm