

April 19, 2023

American Association of Port Authorities
Attn: Board of Directors, Staff & Association Members
1201 Maryland Ave SW, Suite 860
Washington, D.C. 20024

RE: AAPA President and CEO Departure and Search Process

Dear AAPA Board Members:

With the momentum the American Association of Port Authorities has gained under the leadership of AAPA President Chris Connor and the wonderful team he has assembled, the Association is on a trajectory of success for the membership and the industry not seen in some years. We are highly appreciative and grateful for the progress Chris and his team have achieved and will be in his debt for many years to come. Sadly, Chris has announced his retirement from the AAPA effective September 30th, 2023. Therefore, the Board will be searching for a new President and CEO of the AAPA over the next few months.

Chris has assembled a world-class team of energetic, professional, and capable staff members who have developed some exciting new programs designed to assist our industry in modernized process, technology, training, and public policy. Thus, I am pleased to report a strong internal candidate for the President & CEO position! However, the Board has decided as a fiduciary measure to the membership to explore all options in the spirit of good governance. Chris has offered his advisory assistance to ensure a seamless transition after the new President & CEO has been named.

The AAPA Board of Directors have assembled a Search Committee to identify and interview potential candidates for this high profile and strategically important leadership position. The Search Committee will report its recommendations to the Board of Directors and, ultimately, the entire membership.

Seaports in the United States represent over 25% of the Nation's GDP. Port Authorities are significant economic development agencies and stewards of national critical infrastructure. Seaports are vital to local, regional, state, and national economies and the associated jobs they represent. Yet unlike airports, seaports are still underserved and at times misunderstood by public policy makers in Washington D.C. The national focus on supply chain challenges, energy transition initiatives, and economic stimulus legislation such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Water Resources Development Act present a unique opportunity for the AAPA to continue to raise its profile and voice on the national stage with a thoughtful and competent President and CEO.

We thank Chris for his leadership and lasting contributions to the AAPA and wish him much success in his new chapter which will include lots of golf and more time with his lovely wife.

Respectfully,



Sean C. Strawbridge
Chairman of the Board
American Association of Port Authorities

cc: Chris Connor



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