

Environment and Energy

AAPA is the unified voice of the seaport industry in the United States (US), representing 78 geographically diverse public port authorities. Maritime trade is currently the most environmentally friendly and cost-efficient form of trade.

1. AAPA Supports Additional Funding for Emissions Reduction.

Ports are committed to reducing their emissions footprint. Even though ports are increasing their throughput, ports are already decreasing overall emissions. For example, the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey has reduced PM10 levels by 74% from 2006 levels. However, their CO2 levels have not decreased at all. More funding to replace equipment and update infrastructure could help ports reduce emissions that come from a variety of sources. It could also cause, at a minimum, an overall 47% decrease in port emissions from 2011 levels by 2030. While ports are committed to reducing emissions, incentives and government aid to adopt cutting edge technologies can help speed this process. *AAPA supports removing barriers and making more funds available for port use.*

2. AAPA Supports Increased Funding of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act.

Ports use Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grants in a variety of ways, including Clean Truck programs, retrofitting or replacing yard equipment, installing shore power for vessels at docks, and retrofitting dredges and tugs. In 2014 alone, DERA grants to ports reduced an estimated 55,990 tons of CO2 over the lifetime of the affected engines. The DERA program continues to effectively reduce emissions, not just at ports, but across the United States. Congress should continue to fund the DERA program.

3. Congress should support programs that build climate resilience at ports.

Because of the ports' coastal location, any impact due to rising sea levels or extreme weather events will impact our nation's economy. AAPA's member ports oversee 90% of international trade and employ over 650,000 Americans. The impact of rising sea levels and extreme weather events do not just impact our ports but can harm the entire economy. AAPA supports efforts that ensure the federal government is helping ports become resilient in the face of rising sea levels or extreme weather events.

4. Congress should reauthorize and coordinate programs that improve water quality.

The National Estuary Program works with ports and other community groups to protect and restore the water quality and ecological integrity of 28 estuaries in the US. NEP is up for reauthorization in 2020. NEP's reauthorization would allocate \$50 million annually and expand the program to projects focused on stormwater runoff, accelerated land loss, flooding, and emerging issues. AAPA supports the reauthorization and additional funds for NEP.

Ports are subject to federal, state, and local stormwater requirements to manage water quality. There is a lack of coordination between the regulations at the federal, state, and local levels. The lack of coordination makes it confusing and difficult for ports to expand facilities while addressing water quality concerns. AAPA supports consistency in carrying out federal laws, including interpretation of the law concerning enforcement actions.