

Op-Ed Template: Ports Day 2023

**8th Annual ‘Western Hemisphere Ports Day’**

The [**American Association of Port Authorities**](http://www.aapa-ports.org/)(AAPA) – the unified and recognized voice of seaports in the Americas - and its entire hemispheric membership will commemorate [Western Hemisphere Ports Day](https://www.aapa-ports.org/membership/content.aspx?ItemNumber=22836) on April 5th again this year. The annual event recognizes the port industry’s role in efficient goods movement, job creation and propelling the economy in nations they serve across the Americas.

This year’s Ports Day theme, *Strong Ports, Strong People,* explores the industry’s role in ensuring supply chain efficiencies, building for a resilient future, and fostering professional development to propel the economy in nations they serve across the Americas.

During these times of crisis and uncertainty, ports will always have a vital role in moving necessities and goods all over the hemisphere; ensuring that grocery store shelves remain stocked, small local businesses succeed, and militaries, in times of war, get the essential materials they need.

Ports are at the forefront of modernizing supply chain infrastructure, utilizing new, innovative ideas to create a more sustainable future. They are job creators, good neighbors, and always striving to build a better tomorrow.

Ports also play a critical role in providing goods that impact our everyday lives. Millions of tons of essential cargo, valued at more than $10 billion, move through Western Hemisphere seaports every day.

American seaports are propelling job-creation and economic growth at a blistering speed. Now, ports sustain 31 million jobs and generate economic activity representing 26 percent of the U.S. economy. Each year, $2.2 trillion in freight moves through U.S. ports; ports drive $378.1 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue; and consumers spend $139.2 billion on products that move through ports.

Ports are also integral stewards of the environment. Utilizing the latest technology and alternative energy for environmental sustainability, ports hard work to lessen the burden on our planet.

No matter what, AAPA-member ports are ready to deliver the products you need and want, keep your shopping cart filled, and take whatever actions are needed to support a strong and stable economy.

**#PortsDay #PortsUnited #SeaportsDeliver**