

Support Supply Chain Resiliency and Port Infrastructure in FY23 Approps

Sending Office: Honorable Alan S. Lowenthal
Sent By: Andrew.Bower@mail.house.gov

Dear Colleague,

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional PORTS Caucus, we invite you to join us to urge full funding of the Port Infrastructure Development Program in FY23.

The Port Infrastructure Development Program supports the efficient movement of commerce upon which our economy relies through discretionary grant funding that helps strengthen, modernize, and improve our country's maritime systems and gateway ports. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis and support the Nation's long-term economic vitality.

American ports are cornerstones of the U.S. economy, supporting 30 million jobs and 26% of our economic output. However, a lack of investment in port infrastructure and the COVID-19 pandemic have strained ports' capacity and jeopardized global supply chains. Over the past year, American ports stepped up to provide record throughput as our economy recovered. But going forward, there is an urgent need to invest in American ports to strengthen our supply chains, reduce prices and inflationary pressure, improve resilience, and help ensure we make goods here in America and export them to the world, rather than shipping jobs and production overseas.

The PIDP is a critical program to accomplish these objectives.

With questions or please reach out to Andrew Bower

at Andrew.Bower@Mail.House.Gov with Rep. Lowenthal or Bill Christian

at William.Christian@mail.house.gov with Rep. Weber.

The letter is available to sign on [quill](#).

Sincerely,

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Letter text:

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

We write to request that the Committee provide full funding of \$750 million for the MARAD Port and Intermodal Improvement Program, also known as the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP), in the FY 2023 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill.

The importance of America's seaports to the health and well-being of our economy has never been clearer. Ports have made enormous changes to adjust to the unprecedented supply chain challenges of the last two years, and have successfully facilitated a record year for cargo throughput in 2021. Congress and the

administration have made historic efforts on a bipartisan basis to mitigate this crisis, but additional action will be critical.

The supply chain conditions of the past year exposed the need for critical investments in our supply chain, but the need for robust federal funding for our nation's port infrastructure is not new. In the most recent round of awards, FY21, there were applications for \$1.3 billion in federal funding, while a total of \$239 million was awarded. The program is therefore oversubscribed by a factor of 5.4 to 1. This underscores the need for robust federal investment, and the significant interest from project sponsors in this program.

The PIDP fills a crucial gap and helps ensure that resources are available to strengthen and modernize port infrastructure to support the Nation's long-term economic vitality.

Maintaining American economic competitiveness requires consistent and robust federal investment. Full funding of the PIDP will allow America's seaports to fulfill their crucial role as gateways of prosperity for the American people.

As you finalize priorities for the FY 2023 THUD Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fully fund the PIDP.