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# John Bressler, AAPA Presentation to Louisiana Ports Association



# American Association of Port Authorities

AAPA was established in 1912 in New York

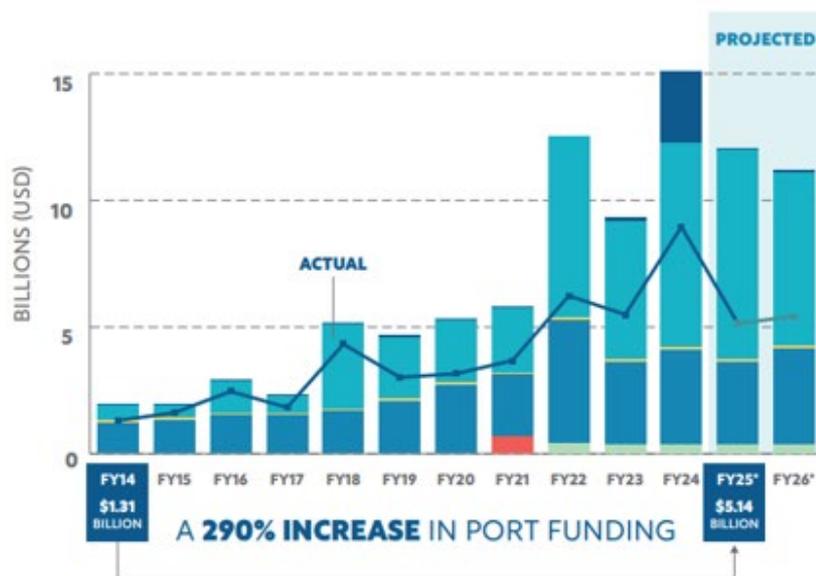
- Since then, AAPA has provided a space for collaboration and exchange of best practices
  - Education and Training
  - Networking and one-on-one interaction
  - Technical Committees
  - **Legislative and Policy Advocacy**
  - Outreach



# FEDERAL PORT FUNDING

Increased investment in ports & infrastructure

Thanks to the effective advocacy of AAPA members on historic infrastructure legislation, federal funding in FY25 was **290% higher** than in FY14.



## TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS BY AGENCY

- Environmental Protection Agency**
  - Clean Ports Program
  - DERA
- U.S. Department of Transportation**
  - MEGA
  - PROTECT
  - Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities
  - Marine Highway Program
  - CRISI
  - PIDP
  - INFRA/FASTLANE
  - RAISE/BUILD/TIGER
- Department of Homeland Security**
  - Port Security Grant Program
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
  - Coastal Navigation
- American Rescue Plan**
- Earmarks**

— Actual Awarded to Ports

— Projected Port Awards: FY25-26



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF PORT AUTHORITIES



VISIT [AAPA-PORTS.ORG](https://www.aapa-ports.org)

# Infrastructure Bill Reauthorization

- AAPA requesting \$10.9 Billion in PIDP funding
- GR held **20+ Capitol Hill meetings**, including with Committees of jurisdiction to push for PIDP funding
- Read out: advanced appropriations unlikely (like the Infrastructure Bill – which was historic) – but never know...
  - TRUMP could ask for a trillion-dollar Infrastructure bill!
- Advocacy laying groundwork, building relationships, opportunity for other policy priorities



# Maritime Action Plan Released

- Largely aspirational / blueprint to revitalize national industrial base
- AAPA maintained neutral posture (Balancing Act)
- Politically important to remain at the table / diplomatic relations with WH / Congress
- Shipbuilding topic of discussion at AAPA Legislative Summit



# Rep. Ezell's Port Crane Tax Incentive Act of 2025

- Introduced by Rep. Ezell, Chair of the Coast Guard and Maritime Subcommittee!
  - AAPA authored and led
  - Was filed as an Amendment to NDAA
- Strong support / cosponsored by member on Ways and Means (Committee of jurisdiction)
- Getting interest from Capitol Hill, stakeholders, and media



# Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

- Congress is deliberating reauthorization of the WRDA 2026
- AAPA has been at the table throughout the process.
  - Discussed at Harbors and Nav mtg and Leg Policy Council at AAPA Annual Convention
- All port member ideas / of national size, scope, significance



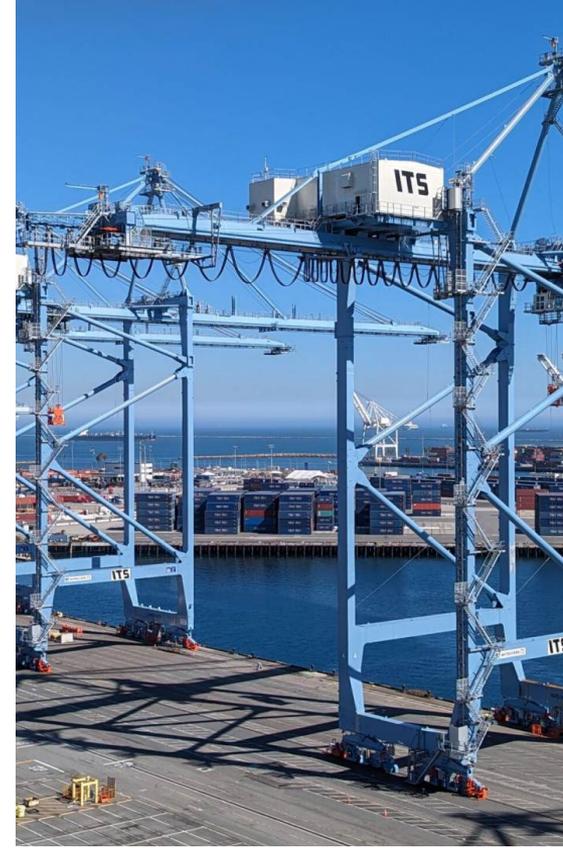
# Exec. Branch USTR 301 Actions / Tariffs

- AAPA posture remains the same (comments, advocacy, etc) - respectfully oppose but remain at the table
- Many carriers adjusted their fleets to avoid the fees. Impact on trade flows.
- 100% STS Crane Tariffs Exempt – **saved ports over \$300 million**
  - **Pause on shipbuilding and CHE fees for one year**
- SCOTUS ruling – tariffs under IEPPA ruled unconstitutional
- Refund process will be long and complicated



# Senate E & W Bill / HMTF / D & ETP

- AAPA successfully advocated for full funding drawdown from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF)
  - Push for HMTF / work alongside ports to reach depth goals
- Restores full \$400 million for Donor and Energy Transfer Ports
- Strong support from US ports letter – advocating for FY 2026 USACE Work Plan implementation – **critical step to get \$\$\$**
- Continue to be major priority for AAPA



# Elections in 2026?

- **Opportunities and Challenges**
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Funding \$ - Highway Infrastructure Reauthorization and Annual Appropriations
- **CHALLENGE:** Increased Regs / Restrictions: Vessel Speed Restrictions - Critical Habitat Designation / Oil & gas regulations

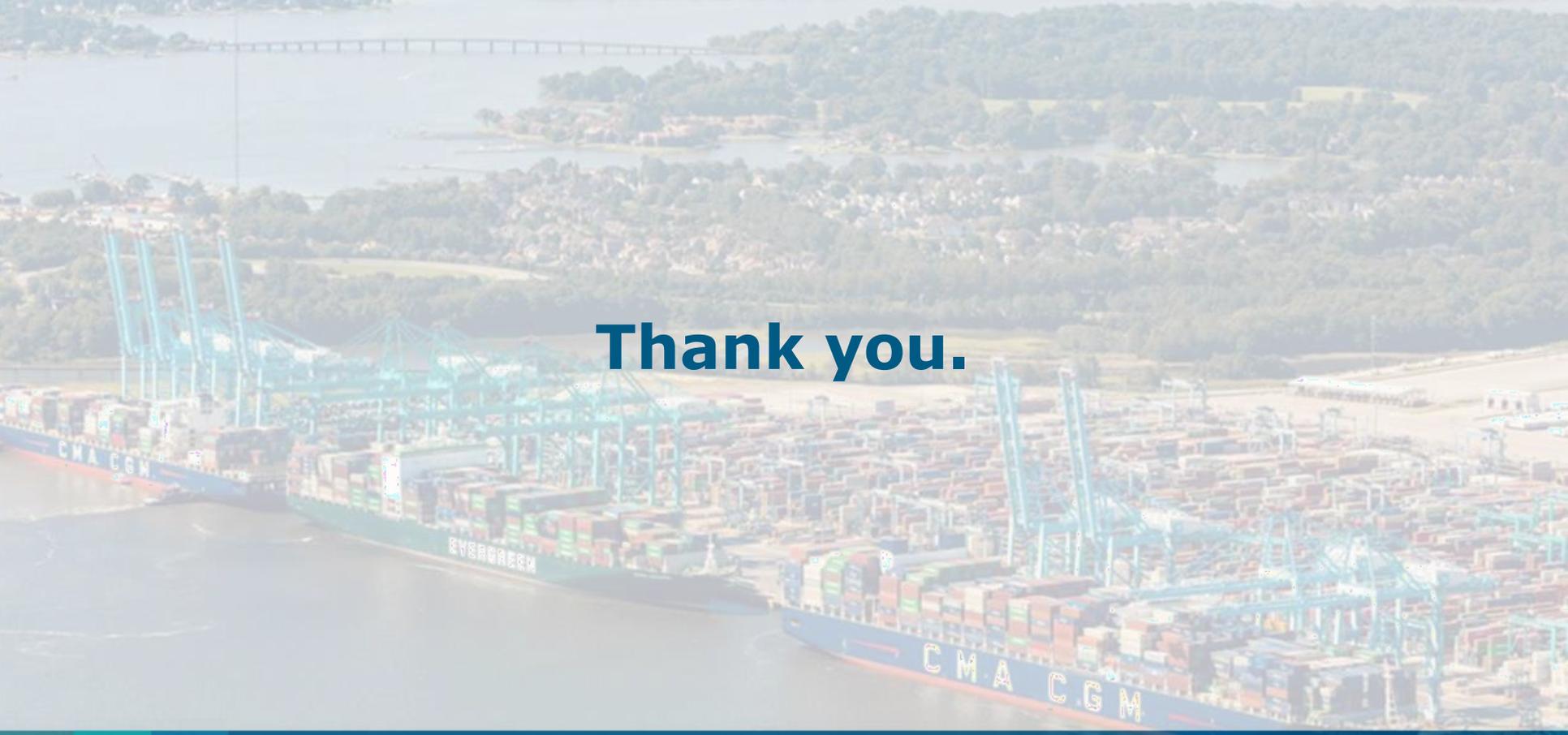


# AAPA Legislative Summit (March 4-6)

- Best lineup of elected officials! (Congress / White House)
- Port Person of the Year (Member from the Gulf will receive!)
- Speakers Balcony Reception / Relevant Policy Discussion: (WRDA/shipbuilding/transportation bill/security)
- Register today!



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**Thank you.**