

NORTH ATLANTIC PORTS ASSOCIATION INC

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20599

January 31, 2017

Dear Mr. President:

As one of the oldest and most active trade associations of commercial seaports in the United States, the North Atlantic Ports Association writes to encourage the Administration and Congress to continue to support the ocean planning efforts taking shape in states and regions around the country.

As an association, our goal is to promote ocean commerce in a responsible manner in order to strengthen the national economy and help our coastal communities to prosper. We see the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Ocean Plans as tools to help us achieve those goals. The information and data collected and housed in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic ocean data portals, and verified in partnership with our membership, identifies not only our industry uses and needs, but also lays out future industry trends that help agencies make more informed decisions.

Our members are connected to seaports and ocean commerce in various ways: terminal operators, stevedores, port authorities, governmental agencies, non-profits, consultants, academics, maritime lawyers, and ships' agents. They are all located between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Canadian Maritimes. Our member ports, in the United States, are Albany, Baltimore, Boston, Bridgeport, Davisville, Eastport, New Bedford, New Haven, New York/New Jersey, Port of Virginia, Port of Portsmouth, NH, Philadelphia, Portland, Providence, Richmond, Searsport, South Jersey, and Wilmington. We are interested in expanding trade among nations and in helping our local communities to prosper through growth in ocean commerce. As the economy becomes ever more global, our role in the world-wide supply chain has increased in importance. Ocean activity across the nation is growing. We have witnessed the competition for space amongst the numerous ocean-based business sectors either currently operating or planning to operate in our ocean and ports. Coordinated planning is critical to ensure the current and future needs of our businesses are considered and accommodated as the ocean and ports become more crowded.

Regional planning bodies [RBPs] like the Northeast RPB and the Mid-Atlantic RPB provide a unique forum for the states and federal agencies to work across jurisdictional boundaries on ocean and coastal challenges. This entity offers our members a clear way to have a seat at the decision-making table, rather than on an ad hoc basis trying to track and respond to the huge array of new ocean activities that affect our businesses. We appreciate this type of proactive planning approach to ensure that we are able to inform future decisions by providing input on the needs of our industry.

We believe that it is important to us that this work continues.

Sincerely,

John Henshaw, President
North Atlantic Ports Association, Inc