

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 12, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write to respectfully request that Congress set aside relief specifically for our nation's maritime ports in the next COVID-19 package.

Congress has done tremendous work advancing multiple pieces of legislation to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. However, due to their unique governing structures, ports have not been eligible for many of the recently enacted relief programs. These entities need assistance to carry on their essential work and remain vitally important to the well-being of our communities during this time and will be critical for recovery efforts once this crisis is over.

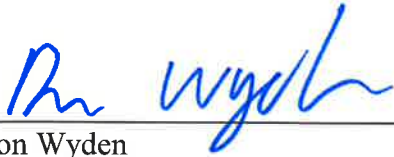
Funding sources vary for ports, but all have seen their budgets hit hard by the ongoing business closures and stay-at-home orders. Yet port staff are not able to just lock up their facilities and go home. Their vital work must continue to move the goods the American people need and to maintain safety and security for these essential workers. Congress should recognize the enormous impact this is having by including them in the next package. Most important is that the next package disperses aid to ports of all sizes, both large and small alike. Our solution must make sure that all our ports receive the resources they need. Small ports are often the lifeblood of communities and are the hardest hit by these events. Maritime ports provide the economic health and stability that coastal communities rely on. We must not forget them when crafting these policies. Any effort enacted here must be able to flow down to the smallest port to help them weather this emergency.

Ports come in all sizes, provide gainful employment, and serve a wide variety of industry sectors - import/export, energy/chemical, manufacturing, commercial fishing, agriculture, and so forth. Our nation's ports serve as the vital link between our people and the goods they buy for their families as well as ensuring American made products can be purchased in foreign markets. Previous aid has served other sectors of the transportation industry deemed essential and now it is critical that all of our nation's ports receive much needed assistance to keep supply chains moving and keep both employees and customers safe

We stand ready to work with you to address these problems and make sure that all Americans receive assistance during these challenging times. Without this aid, industries served by ports

will not be able to offer essential services to get our communities back into shape once we start to recover from this crisis.

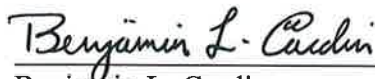
Sincerely,



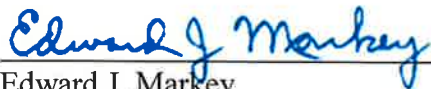
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey Jr.

Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono

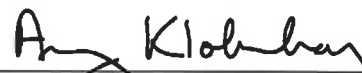
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Mark R. Warner

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator