

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 19, 2006

The Honorable William H. Frist
Majority Leader
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20224

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Frist, Chairman Cochran, and Ranking Member Byrd:

We are writing in support of the \$648 million for port security included in the Senate-passed version of H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006. We urge you to include this funding in the final conference report of this bill. These funds will support security at U.S. ports, as well as our ability to extend our security abroad, by increasing funding for port security grants, inspectors, cargo container inspection systems, and radiation portal monitors.

The goal of the United States must be to inspect, using both physical and non-invasive methods, 100 percent of all cargo containers entering the United States. Currently, only 5 percent of cargo containers entering the U.S. are either physically examined or x-rayed. The \$55 million for additional port inspectors and cargo container specialists will increase our ability to inspect containers abroad. The additional \$343 million for radiation monitors and inspection systems will allow the United States to scan more containers and to determine the contents and any threats from radiation or nuclear weapons.

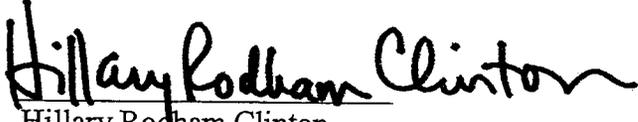
We also support the \$227 million for port security grants which will enable individual ports to make the on-the-ground changes necessary to increase port security. With this funding, the amount available in FY006 for port security grants would be a total of \$400 million, as recommended by the American Association of Port Authorities. The Association notes that even this funding would only be a "modest investment" and we believe that we must, at a minimum, include at least \$400 million for port security grants for this fiscal year.

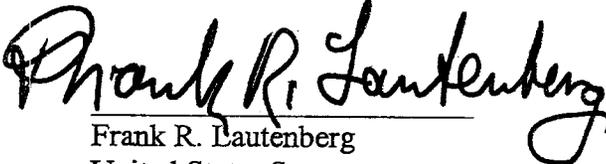
We all agree that we should protect our nation's critical infrastructure, including our ports, and that we must target vulnerabilities which could be exploited by terrorists who

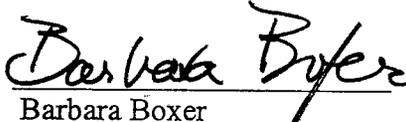
want to hurt both the American people and our economy. We believe that investing almost \$648 million dollars in port security is a critical step in protecting our nation and urge you to support this funding.

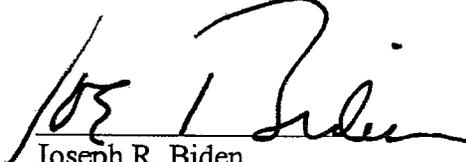
Sincerely,


Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator

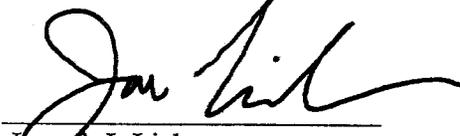

Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator

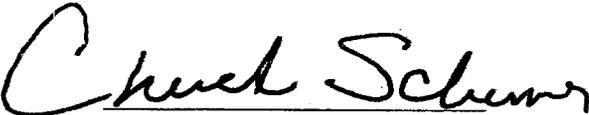

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator


Joseph R. Biden
United States Senator


Richard Durbin
United States Senator


Patty Murray
United States Senator


Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator


Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator


Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator

cc: Senate Conferees