



Duluth Seaway Port Authority  
Saint Paul Port Authority | Red Wing Port Authority  
Wabasha Port Authority | Port Authority of Winona

TO: Chair Lee, House Capital Investment Committee  
Chair Pappas, Senate Capital Investment Committee

FROM: Minnesota Ports Association

DATE: April 29, 2024

Chair Lee and Chair Pappas,

We write to thank you for including \$8 million in general obligation funds for the Port Development Assistant Program (PDAP) in your omnibus capital investment bills. This PDAP funding is essential to keeping our critical port infrastructure in working condition to help move goods and products into and out of every region in the state.

As you're aware, the infrastructure funding recently passed at the federal level provided for a huge amount of one-time funding for port infrastructure, funding we are actively working on accessing. Being able to leverage the PDAP funds in your 2024 omnibus bonding bill will help put Minnesota's ports in an even better position to secure additional federal funds across all the state's public ports, which would allow us to continue to address our growing list of infrastructure needs.

Minnesota's ports provide valuable access to national and international markets for a variety of commodities from several economic sectors of the state's economy. Our ports are a critical link in the state's supply chain serve regions well beyond the cities that they are located within. They benefit the entire state by exporting products from key industries and acting as an inbound conduit for materials for key industries.

Having a system of ports that is well maintained and easily accessible is a critical component for many industries across the state. Efficient ports are critical to Minnesota's economy and our ability to be an economic leader in the region. We thank you for your inclusion of these critical funds in your omnibus bills.

Sincerely,

Deborah B. DeLuca  
President, Minnesota Ports Association