

**Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D., Executive Director
Port of Los Angeles
Remarks Introducing U.S. Congresswoman Jane Harman
AAPA Annual Spring Conference -- Washington People's Luncheon
March 24, 2009**

Willard InterContinental Hotel
Ballroom - Lower Level
1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.
12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

REMARKS

Hello and thank you for joining us for the Washington People's Luncheon here at the AAPA Annual Spring Conference.

AAPA takes great pride in its selection of the "Port Person of the Year." This is AAPA's most prestigious award for an individual who has made significant contributions to the port industry. Recent honorees include: U.S. Senator Robert Byrd, Panamanian President Martin Torrijos, U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, U.S. Senator Patty Murray, and U.S. Representative Jim Oberstar. This is truly a distinguished group.

This year's honoree is a leader who has long-represented my home Port of Los Angeles, Congresswoman Jane Harman.

First elected to Congress in 1992 in California's 36th Congressional District, Congresswoman Jane Harman is a leading expert on counter terrorism, homeland security, foreign affairs, and intelligence matters, and well recognized by her colleagues and the national media as an authoritative voice on these issues.

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee for eight years – the final four as Ranking Member – Congresswoman Harman helped shape Congress' policy response to the 9/11 attacks and played a lead role in the creation and passage of many security policy reforms, including the Intelligence Reform Act of 2004. Now in her eighth term, Congresswoman Harman continues her security policy focus as Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence & Terrorism Risk Assessment.

We are honoring Congresswoman Harman for, among many accomplishments, her leadership in championing the SAFE Port Act of 2006, which provides a crucial dedicated multi-year funding stream for port security projects. In addition to authoring the act, Congresswoman Harman worked diligently with colleagues from both sides of the aisle and the Administration, especially then Homeland Secretary Michael Chertoff, to make sure that ports' security needs were addressed.

Now, we all know how long it can take to get things done in Washington...and it is worthy to note that it only took two congressional sessions to pass the bill and have it signed by the President. Now that is an accomplishment! The SAFE Port Act authorized federal funding of \$400 million per year for five years to help U.S. ports enhance and improve their security infrastructure.

Congresswoman Harman has fought to keep funding appropriated levels at \$400 million a year and the President's budget has reflected that each year since its passage.

In addition to her leadership on security funding, Congresswoman Harman has also been very active on security policy, supporting the implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential or TWIC program. As the TWIC implementation date kept getting pushed further out into the future and the enrollment process was falling by the way side due to various problems, such as locations that could not handle truck parking, office set-ups that were not user-friendly, hours of operation that were not consistent, indefinite delays with the computers and so on, Congresswoman Harman engaged the TSA TWIC implementation division to address the many concerns.

More recently, Congresswoman Harman's role as an environmental leader was cemented with the passage of the 2007 Energy Act, which included her landmark lighting efficiency provisions to phase-out the wasteful 100-watt incandescent bulb by 2012, and require all light bulbs to be at least three times more efficient than today's by 2020.

Congresswoman, you have tirelessly worked to advance and continue to draw national attention to all U.S. ports' security needs, demands and challenges. You not only heard our needs, you took action to ensure ports received funding that resulted in enhanced security infrastructure throughout the U.S.

You understand that Seaports Deliver Prosperity, and to do so they need continued federal support for security as well as infrastructure and environmental initiatives. We look forward to you continuing to be a cogent voice for ports in the new administration.

Congresswoman Harman, I'm honored to present you with the AAPA Port Person of the Year Award.

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