



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

May 7, 2025

Re: 2025 Capital Budget Proposal

Chair Pappas, Ranking Member Housley, and Members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee,

The Minnesota Ports Association would like to thank you for all your work to assemble a capital investment package to help address the critical infrastructure needs of our state, and for including funding for the Port Development Assistance Program ("PDAP") in your bill.

PDAP is an essential tool to keep Minnesota's ports functional, providing funds for both infrastructure repairs and new construction. Minnesota's ports are a critical link in the state's supply chain and go well beyond serving the regions where they are physically located. They benefit the entire state by exporting products from key industries and acting as an inbound conduit for materials industries rely on like cement, fertilizer, salt and petroleum products.

Ports handle farm products, fertilizers, iron ore, and other bulk commodities, as well as construction materials and large and oversized equipment like wind turbines, towers and blades. In total over 70 million tons of major commodities move through Minnesota's ports each and every year.

Much of the port infrastructure in the state is past its original useful life and in need of repair or replacement. The PDAP funding in your bill will help fund critical projects at the state's public ports (the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, the St. Paul Port Authority, the Port Authority of Winona, the Red Wing Port Authority, and the Wabasha Port Authority) to help us more effectively and efficiently move goods and products to market and help drive economic activity for the entire state. PDAP funds can also leverage federal infrastructure funds increasing the state's return on investment.

We sincerely appreciate you including funding for this important program in your bill.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Ports Association