

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2005

Join the 109th PORT SECURITY CAUCUS

Sens. Collins and Inouye, Reps. Ruppertsberger and Brown Reconvene the Congressional Port Security Caucus to Improve America's Port Security and Keep Commerce Flowing

Dear Colleague:

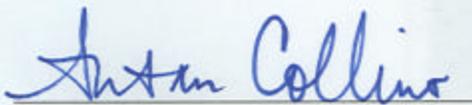
We are pleased to announce that the bi-partisan, bi-cameral Congressional Port Security Caucus has officially convened for the 109th Congress and we urge you to consider joining.

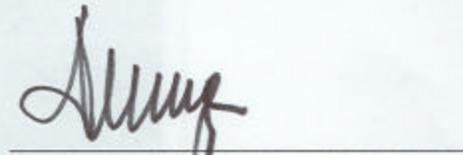
There is little doubt today that port and maritime security remain critical issues facing our nation. The Port Security Caucus looks forward to providing a bi-partisan forum for information and discussion. While acknowledging that the cost of an attack on our maritime transportation system could be devastating to our economy, port security has yet to receive the attention or funding it requires. We hope to bring Members together to gather and share information, discuss what has been successful, and consider what remains to be achieved to make our ports as secure as possible.

With more than 360 sea, river, and lake ports that receive and distribute 95% of the nation's cargo, the United States' economic strength is dependent upon vigilant port security efforts. However, Congress must be mindful as we move to protect this critical transportation and commerce infrastructure that we do not create impediments to private sector growth or unfunded federal mandates for state and local governments. The Port Security Caucus will strive to provide balanced briefings from varying points of view along with speakers and other events to help all Members of Congress strike the right balance between national and economic security within the maritime domain.

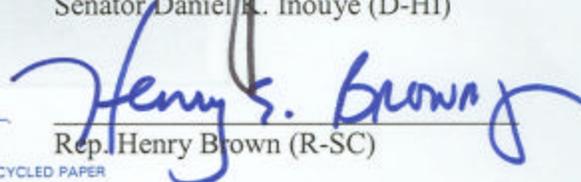
Port security is an evolving issue and must be continually revisited. Please join with us to gather information, review what has been achieved, and what remains to be done to make our ports as secure as they possibly can be. We welcome your ideas and your membership. If you have any questions about the Caucus or would like to join, please contact Sheilah Mirmiran (Ruppertsberger) at sheilah.mirmiran@mail.house.gov or 5-3061, Chris Berardini (Brown) at chris.berardini@mail.house.gov or 5-3176, Keith Janssen (Collins) at Keith_Janssen@hsgac.senate.gov or 4-4751, or Dabney Hegg (Inouye) at Dabney_Hegg@Commerce.Senate.gov or 4-9000.

Sincerely,


Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME)


Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI)


Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger (D-MD)


Rep. Henry Brown (R-SC)