



April 28, 2006

The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
United States House of Representatives  
2464 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pascrell:

I am writing to commend your strong leadership on port worker security training and to congratulate you on the unanimous adoption of the amendments you sponsored along with Chairman Reichert during full Committee markup of H.R. 4954, the SAFE Port Act.

As a longtime friend of labor, you know that the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) and our affiliated longshore unions have long advocated for measures to enhance port security, including adequate worker training. Unfortunately, the Administration has failed to adequately fund, implement, and enforce maritime and cargo security measures and as a result, our ports remain extremely vulnerable. As you understand very well, there has been virtually no security training for longshore and other port workers, despite the fact that Coast Guard regulations require that these workers be trained.

Thanks to your work and commitment, progress is slowly being made. Through the training and exercise programs outlined in your amendments, workers will be able to help prevent an incident at a port and will be prepared to protect themselves in the event of an emergency. Provided that facilities implement this training as intended, your amendments will also significantly improve the ability of ports to prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack.

We appreciate your willingness to work with us on a solution to this critical security gap. We look forward to working with you as this bill moves forward to further enhance security at our nation's ports and marine terminals.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Edward Wytkind". The signature is written over the word "Sincerely," and extends across the line.

Edward Wytkind  
President

cc: John Bowers, President, ILA  
James Spinosa, International President, ILWU

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO

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Edward Wytkind, President • Michael A. Ingrao, Secretary-Treasurer