

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PORT AUTHORITIES

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April 6, 2015

Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1312 (O'Donnell) Ballast Water Management – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

On behalf of the California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA), I write in support of your AB 1312, which seeks to amend portions of the CA PRC code related to ballast water management from ships. CAPA is comprised of the state's eleven commercial, publicly-owned ports and is dedicated to maintaining a vigorous and vital port industry in California. The Association, which has been in existence since 1940, is committed to promoting the interests of California's ports, maintaining the state's leading role in the maritime industry, and leading the way in innovative and cutting edge environmentally-friendly port operations.

As you may know, California is subject to very demanding ballast water standards, which are very aspirational but according to an assessment made by the State Lands Commission (SLC), there currently is no technology available for stakeholders to meet those strict standards. Unless the standards are amended or their implementation date is postponed, vessels will be unable to comply with state law and find themselves without any available remedy. AB 1312 delays the implementation of those standards with the anticipation that ballast water treatment systems will be better able to meet California's strict standards in the future.

Sincerely,

Tim Schott
Executive Director

cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
Committee Consultant