



INTRODUCTION

AMERICAN GREAT LAKES PORTS ASSOCIATION

Transportation Go – April 9, 2026
Great Lakes Ports Investments & Growth



**AMERICAN
GREAT LAKES PORTS
ASSOCIATION**



WE ARE THE GREAT LAKES.



**AMERICAN
GREAT LAKES PORTS
ASSOCIATION**

OUR MISSION

**STRONG PORTS.
STRONG COMMUNITIES.
STRONG REGION.**

The American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) is the only organization dedicated exclusively to U.S. Great Lakes commercial ports and the communities they serve. For nearly 50 years, AGLPA has championed U.S. Great Lakes ports, driving economic growth, strengthening communities, and protecting the waters we all depend on.

LEADERSHIP

AGLPA EXECUTIVE BOARD



PRESIDENT

Capt. Paul C. LaMarre III

Port Director,
Port of Monroe



VICE PRESIDENT

Erik Varela

Executive Director,
Illinois International Port District



TREASURER

Kevin Beardsley

Executive Director,
Duluth Seaway Port Authority



SECRETARY

Joe Cappel

VP of Business Development
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

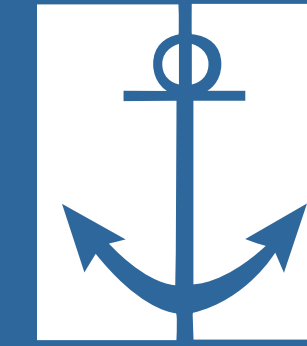
TEAM
AGLPA STAFF MEMBERS



Brian Oszakiewski
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Leslie Zager
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



AMERICAN
GREAT LAKES PORTS
ASSOCIATION

MEMBER PORTS

DULUTH-SUPERIOR



LAKE SUPERIOR

SAULT STE. MARIE



GREEN BAY



LAKE MICHIGAN

LAKE HURON

MILWAUKEE



MUSKEGON



DETROIT



LAKE ONTARIO

OGDENSBURG



OSWEGO



BUFFALO



CHICAGO



MONROE



LAKE ERIE



ERIE

BURNS HARBOR



TOLEDO



LORAIN



CLEVELAND



ADVOCATING FOR OUR REGION.

As the largest commercial ports on the Great Lakes, our 15 member ports collectively represent a vital economic engine.

AGLPA ensures their critical role in maritime commerce, shipping/exports, infrastructure, supply chain resilience, employment, and economic growth is recognized regionally, nationally, and globally.



THE VOICE OF GREAT LAKES PORTS.

AGLPA is the united voice for Great Lakes ports in Washington, D.C. and beyond. Through relationships and coalitions we deliver consistent, effective advocacy on the issues that impact Great Lakes maritime commerce and the regional maritime community.



POLICY POSITIONS

Support the Binational Relationship

Support Great Lakes Navigation & Army Corps Mission

- Complete the Soo Lock Project
- Eliminate the Great Lakes Navigation Maintenance Backlog
- **Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund / Equity**

Key Priorities

- **Cargo & Containerization**
- **Port Infrastructure Development Program**
- **Improve Great Lakes Icebreaking**
- **Barriers to Entry**
- Maintain Safe and Efficient Commerce Through the Chicago Area Waterway System
- Fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

KEY PRIORITIES

HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND (HMTF)

Great Lakes ports support full use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF), enabling the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to maintain safe, efficient navigation through dredging and critical infrastructure maintenance.

AGLPA POSITION

Protect Great Lakes Funding Equity

- Maintain the 13% HMTF allocation to the Great Lakes Navigation System.
- Ensure WRDA 2026 continues to provide stable, predictable funding for Great Lakes navigation and dredging needs.

Statutory Recognition of Dredged Material Management Costs

- Clarify statutory language to ensure full eligibility and federal support for dredged material transport, alternative placement and disposal capacity expansion.

KEY PRIORITIES

CARGO & CONTAINERIZATION

Great Lakes ports are expanding into new business opportunities—including containerized shipping and cruise tourism. Ensuring Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has the staffing, facilities, and flexible service model to meet these evolving needs is essential to unlocking continued growth across the region.

AGLPA POSITION

Ensure Adequate CBP Staffing and Resources at Great Lakes Ports

- Enact the CBP Space Act (H.R. 4336 / S. 1678) to authorize adequate staffing levels and allow the use of revenue for necessary capital improvements.

Modernize the CBP Service Model for Small and Emerging Ports

- Direct CBP to develop and implement a small-port clearance model that supports new container and cruise operations at Great Lakes ports.

KEY PRIORITIES

PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PIDP)

The Port Infrastructure Development Program is a critical source of federal investment in port infrastructure, supporting long-term modernization and reliable supply chain performance.

AGLPA POSITION

Fund and Distribute Port Infrastructure Grants Equitably

- Pass H.R. 6866 / S. 1238 (Securing Smart Investments in our Ports Act) which directs MARAD to consider geographic equity in awards.

Prevent the PIDP Funding Cliff Following FY2026

- Ensure that current and past grant recipients can move forward with awarded projects by providing stable, long-term funding for PIDP:
 - Minimum \$550M annually (THUD appropriations)
 - Minimum \$450M advance appropriations (surface transportation bill)
 - Align with President's FY2026 budget request



PORT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDING

Great Lakes Ports 2019-2024

YEAR	PORT	AMOUNT
FY2024	Chicago, IL	\$34.5 M
FY2024	Chippewa County, MI	\$10.2 M
FY2024	Oswego, NY	\$11.3 M
FY2024	Put-In-Bay, OH	\$10.4 M
FY2024	Erie, PA	\$11.3 M
FY2023	Ogdensburg, NY	\$5.1 M
FY2023	Milwaukee, WI	\$9.27 M
FY2022	Cleveland, OH	\$27.2 M
FY2022	Green Bay, WI	\$10.1 M
FY2022	Monroe, MI	\$11.1 M
FY2022	Detroit, MI	\$16.0 M
FY2021	Superior, WI	\$8.4 M
FY2021	Alpena, MI	\$3.7 M
FY2021	Marquette, MI	\$1.6 M
FY2020	Burns Harbor, IN	\$4.0 M
FY2020	Conneaut, OH	\$19.5 M
FY2019	Duluth, MN	\$10.0 M
FY2019	Cleveland, OH	\$11.0 M
FY2019	Toledo, OH	\$16.0 M
FY2019	Milwaukee, WI	\$15.9 M

TOTAL: \$246.57 M

KEY PRIORITIES

IMPROVE GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKING SERVICES

AGLPA, with the Laker Carriers' Association, is advancing efforts to strengthen U.S. icebreaking capacity and support reliable navigation, as severe ice conditions continue to strain existing assets and underscore the need for additional capability.

AGLPA POSITION

Advance Construction of a New Heavy Great Lakes Icebreaker

- Include at least \$250 million in the FY2027 Homeland Security Appropriations bill to begin construction of a new heavy Great Lakes icebreaker, or \$650 million to fully fund the project.

Modernize and Strengthen the Existing Icebreaking Fleet

- Support targeted investments to modernize and retrofit existing icebreaking assets and associated harbor infrastructure (140s and buoy tenders)

KEY PRIORITIES

ADDRESS GREAT LAKES SHIPPING BARRIERS TO ENTRY

AGLPA is leading a data-driven effort to better understand and address the cost, policy, and operational factors influencing shipping decisions, with the goal of strengthening the competitiveness of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway System.

AGLPA POSITION

Conduct a Comprehensive Great Lakes Shipping Barriers Study

- Support a federally funded, AGLPA-led study in coordination with federal partners and regional stakeholders.
- Use findings to advance policies that strengthen competitiveness and grow international shipping.

AGLPA is currently conducting a study examining expanding cargo between the Great Lakes and Inland Waterways in partnership with GLS, Ports of Indiana, the Illinois International Port District (IIPD), and Port Milwaukee.

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★ AMERICA ★

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CLEVELAND

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU



AMERICAN
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GreatLakesPorts.org

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