



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pictured, L to R: Panel discussion on WRRDA at today's Town Hall event. Richard Biter, Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development, Florida Dept. of Transportation; Congressman Daniel Webster; Port Tampa Bay President & CEO Paul Anderson; Congressman Steve Southerland; and Florida Ports Council President Doug Wheeler participated in today's successful WRRDA Town Hall event, co-presented by the port and the ports council. Congressman Daniel Webster discusses the success of WRRDA and what it means to Florida's future.

Port Tampa Bay, Florida Ports Council, state law makers and port community celebrate WRRDA passage at town hall event

TAMPA, Fla.—Port Tampa Bay and co-presenter Florida Ports Council today hosted a successful forum at the port's Cruise Terminal 2, bringing together statewide port and community stakeholders to discuss and laud the recently-passed Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) legislation that will dramatically improve U.S. ports' ability to develop key projects and therefore continue to be competitive in global trade.

Florida members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee participated in a panel to discuss the benefits of the historic, bipartisan legislation signed into law by President Obama, in June 2014. Port President and CEO Paul Anderson led the discussion, saying that this key WRRDA legislation is critical in helping to improve our nation's port infrastructure, thereby creating a transportation chain that will be globally competitive and enable future generations to reap economic benefits and build a healthier platform for trade and commerce.

Elected officials on the panel were Congressman Daniel Webster and Congressman Steve Southerland, as well as Florida Ports Council's President Doug Wheeler. The engaging panel spoke before an audience of about 150 stakeholders, who represent a diverse port community, Hillsborough

County Schools, and influential economic development groups, such as the Tampa/Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation and Enterprise Florida. Also in attendance were senior officials from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), a key strategic partner of Florida's seaports.

Paul Anderson had been a champion for the passage of WRRDA, highlighting its importance to our state and our nation. Anderson touts the bipartisan efforts and the tireless work of Congress, including the Florida Congressional delegation, to come to a winning conclusion.

"Today's event was outstanding, and we are very grateful to all attendees for their ongoing support of critical infrastructure initiatives such as WRRDA. It's because of the forward thinking of our Florida Congressional delegation, working in tandem with the port industry and our state, that we were able to see the historic signing of WRRDA into law," Anderson said. "Today is all about celebrating that tremendous step toward our future as a nation and acknowledging the exemplary bipartisanship that went into this important process to affect needed change."

About Port Tampa Bay

Port Tampa Bay is Florida's largest port and the largest economic engine in west central Florida, supporting nearly 80,000 jobs and generating almost \$15 billion in annual economic impact. In addition to being a top 10 U.S. cruise port, the port handles a wide array of bulk, break bulk, containers and roll-on/roll-off cargoes, and is a major shipbuilding and repair center. The port was recently voted "Simply the Best" for world-class customer service in a Logistics Management Magazine reader poll. For more information, visit www.portTB.com.

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