

Public Law 96-371  
96th Congress

Joint Resolution

Authorizing and requesting the President of the United States to issue a proclamation designating the seven calendar days beginning October 5, 1980, as "National Port Week", and for other purposes.

Oct. 3, 1980  
[H.J. Res. 551]

Whereas the past development of the public ports of the United States is the result of a fruitful partnership in which State and local authorities have assumed major responsibilities for land-based port development with the Federal Government constructing and maintaining the navigable waterways and harbors of the United States;

Whereas the economic, social, and cultural developments in the history of the port cities and States has mirrored the conditions of the ports of the United States;

Whereas ports serving the United States waterborne commerce are responsible for the creation and continued employment of more than one million workers and an annual contribution in excess of \$56,000,000,000 to our Nation's economic well-being;

Whereas the development of our Nation's ports is indispensable to our foreign trade and vital for the achievement of a favorable balance of trade;

Whereas viable United States ports are necessary to national security and the maintenance of an adequate defense;

Whereas the continued development of the ports of the United States is being adversely affected by economic, physical, and other factors, including the problems associated with the adequacy of the harbors and channels;

Whereas the ability of the public ports to continue their vital contribution to national security and welfare may be in question; and

Whereas there is an urgent need for continuing attention to the needs of the public ports of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating the seven-day period beginning October 5, 1980, as "National Port Week" and to invite the Governors of the several States, the chief officials of local governments, and the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.*

National Port  
Week.  
Designation  
authorization.

Port conditions,  
report to  
Congress.  
15 USC 1519a.

**Sec. 2. The Secretary of Commerce shall report annually to Congress on the conditions of the public ports of the United States, including, but not limited to, their economic and technological development, the extent to which they contribute to the national security and welfare, and those factors which may impede the continued development of the public ports of the United States.**

Approved October 3, 1980.

Whereas the port development of the public ports of the United States is the result of a fruitful partnership in which State and local authorities have assumed major responsibilities for local port development with the Federal Government contributing its own resources to the navigation, waterway, and harbor maintenance activities of the United States;

Whereas the economic, social, and cultural development of the history of the port cities and States has mirrored the development of the port of the United States;

Whereas ports serving the United States' waterborne commerce are responsible for the creation and continued improvement of more than one million jobs and an annual production in excess of \$200 billion to our Nation's economic well-being;

Whereas the development of our Nation's ports is indispensable to our foreign trade and vital for the achievement of a favorable balance of trade;

Whereas while United States ports are necessary to national security and the maintenance of an adequate defense;

Whereas the continued development of the ports of the United States is being adversely affected by economic, physical, and other factors, including the problems associated with the aging of the harbor and waterfront;

Whereas the effect of the public ports to enhance their contribution to national security and welfare may be in question and

Whereas there is an urgent need for continuing attention to the needs of the public ports of the United States, therefore, be

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Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating the seven-day period beginning October 3, 1980, as "National Port Week," and to invite the Governors of the several States, the chief officials of local governments, and the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):

July 30, considered and passed House.

Sept. 19, considered and passed Senate, in lieu of S.J. Res. 176.