

National Association of Regional Councils



2006 NARC Policy Brief

NARC policies are developed yearly from consultations with and information provided by the association's working groups, committees and its membership. The policies provide a context for NARC's national agenda on significant national and legislative issues. Each policy brief includes a rationale for NARC's position on topics relevant and important to America's regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations, metro and rural, large and small.

Maritime and Port Policy

Issue: Maritime and Port Policy

Background: NARC supports and will continue to work with our port partners and members who are engaged in port activities to secure the Marine Transportation System.

The U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS) consists of waterways, ports and their intermodal connections, vessels, vehicles, and system users. Each component is a complex system within itself and is closely linked with the other components. It is primarily an aggregation of State, local or privately owned facilities and private companies. As with the U.S. economy as a whole, decision making and investment are primarily driven by the marketplace. In addition, national, State, and local governments participate in the management, financing, and operation of the MTS.

Policy Recommendations:

- Work to help secure funding for waterway and port development.
- Work with our port and shipping partners to enhance regional and local security.

Legislative Recommendations:

- Help pass a Maritime Authorization bill (SEA-21) that is beneficial to regional development and transportation systems that also engages local and regional officials if it is brought before Congress in 2006.

For additional information, contact Fred Abousleman, Director of Transportation, National Association of Regional Councils, 1666 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009; 202/986-1032, ext. 216; fax: 202/986-1038; e-mail: fred@narc.org.