

UNITED STATES SEAPORT COMMISSION

Originally the U.S. Intelligence Council & now a project of the U.S. Public Policy Council

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Honorable Member of Congress:

I am writing to ask you to reverse a policy mistake of the federal government that has cut across Administrations from President Bill Clinton through the current President Bush. Foreign governments must not gain control or continue their control over ports of entry into the United States.

Now, the proposed takeover of six more major seaports by a company controlled by a foreign government – in this instance the *government* of the United Arab Emirates – has most Americans alarmed, and anxious to see that policy reversed. We have been attempting to call the nation's attention to such issues through our two published books, with nearly 2 million copies in circulation, our conferences and seminars, our newsletters and our petition drives. For exactly the same reasons of national security, the eviction of communist China's Chinese Overseas Shipping Company (COSCO) from Pier J in Los Angeles harbor should also be your priority.

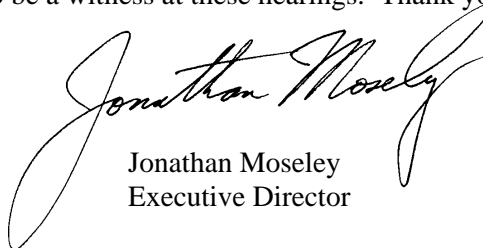
At the very least, U.S. security interests will be compromised by allowing foreign governments – especially prospective adversaries – to have any control at our seaports. The U.S. Coast Guard and Homeland Security have *only regulatory authority* over shipping companies. That is, companies and ships submit security plans for governmental approval, with occasional inspections. But the actual *implementation* of security procedures is carried out by the companies – *not* the government! As with China's COSCO, employees of Dubai Ports World physically in the United Arab Emirates will have complete access to all of the United States' state-of-the art security procedures for our seaports.

This is not anti-Middle Eastern. Americans are now shocked to learn that *any* foreign companies control U.S. ports of entry after 9/11. The U.S. Seaports Commission has been warning for years about Pier J in Los Angeles harbor being controlled by an arm of the Chinese military, COSCO. We have warned about a front company controlled by Communist China having control of the entrance/exit ports of the Panama Canal. Foreign countries don't have to actually control U.S. ports of entry to enjoy a mutually profitable commercial relationship with America or feel "respected."

We are told that Americans are doing most of the work at the seaports. So then Americans are fully capable of running our seaports without foreign help. But the question is: Who is in control? Having Americans who operate our seaports under the control of, and working at the direction of, Dubai or Beijing is a clear and present danger to America and our legitimate national security interests.

U.S. seaports security can't be maintained by *foreign governments*. Congress should hold extended hearings on the question of the control by Communist China and other foreign governments, of vital U.S. seaports and prevent any such control until the completion of such fact-finding hearings. I will appreciate your advising me of your response to our concern so that we can keep our 45,000 active supporters informed. I'd like to ask to be a witness at these hearings. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Moseley
Executive Director

See our website for my full public policy statement on this issue, www.USSeaportCommission.org