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# Bi-State News

Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers

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## Port Productivity Remains a Major Issue

The Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers welcomes the establishment of a Port Performance Task Force and the opportunity to have our members serve on sub-committees in order to ensure that the many problems affecting the trucking industry in the Ports are rectified.

Port Productivity has not improved and remains a major economic hurdle for Association members. Turn times and productivity issues that Association members are experiencing is making it impossible for us to serve our customers. Huge costs are being in-

curred for labor, chassis rentals, per diem and demurrage. Such burdensome costs place all our businesses in jeopardy.

That said, we welcome a seat at the table as participants in the Port Performance Task Force. This Task Force is intended to provide a framework for constituents in the Port of New York and New Jersey to discuss areas of common interest, identify challenges to port efficiency and service reliability and recommend potential solutions.

## Problems with TRAC Chassis Migration Persist

At our Jan 7 Board meeting representatives from TRAC Intermodal addressed our group concerning chassis imbalance issues. According to TRAC, MAERSK Line containers are being picked up at Maher and returned to APM. The MAERSK Imbalance is over 500 per month and over the past six months 7300 chassis went from Maher to APM.

We strongly voiced our displeasure at this situation. We are facing unfair charges for chassis returns to APM.

Our drivers continue to wait for chassis at Maher among others. This problem cannot be placed on the backs of the trucking industry. We will continue to fight these charges and will keep the membership informed.

## Snow Removal a Major 2014 Legislative Issue

Assembly bill A3135 introduced by Assemblyman Mainor and co-sponsored by Assemblyman Wolfe would exempt commercial vehicle drivers from the snow and ice removal requirement until such time as appropriate removal equipment is available. Snow removal creates many problems. The requirement for drivers to do so is a real safety risk, and is a

violation of OSHA regulations due to heights, among other things.

The new legislative session begins January 14, 2014. The legislation,



A-3135, will be re-introduced in both houses of the legisla-

ture. The Association will be making a major push to enact the legislation and ensure the necessary

equipment is in place in order to remove snow from the roofs of trucks. It is extremely unfair for the trucking industry to be punished for having snow on their trucks based on a law that was not followed by the appropriate state Authorities. The trucking community will comply with the law once it is followed by the state.



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## Serving the Businesses that Serve the Port.

### Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers Association President Jeffrey Bader Honored with Patriots' Path Council 2013 Maritime, Labor and Industry Good Scout Award

Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers Association President Jeffrey Bader was honored with the Patriots' Path Council 2013 Maritime, Labor and Industry Good Scout Award by the Boy Scouts of America at their annual Maritime, Labor and Industry Awards luncheon at the Maritime Parc restaurant in Jersey City on November 1.



This recognition is presented to those who exemplify in their daily lives the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. Recipients are chosen for their outstanding community service, as evidenced by their leadership to many worthwhile organizations, as well as the respect and esteem in which they are held by their colleagues.

Also honored at the event was Senator Robert Menendez who was presented with the James E. West Award as well as several other Maritime industry leaders.

"I am very honored and proud to have received such a distinguished honor by the Boy Scouts of America," stated Bader. "The values and dedication to service by the Scouts is something we as an organization try to implement on behalf of our membership. To be honored with other great leaders in our maritime industry and with Senator Menendez is a most gratifying experience."

### Gramiccioni Named to Port Authority

Governor Christie appointed Deborah Gramiccioni, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Cabinet Liaison to the PANYNJ as Deputy Executive Director. Gramiccioni has a long history of working with Christie both in the US Attorney's office and in his administration. She also worked in the Justice Department in Washington D.C.



### Panama Canal Widening Could Boost East Coast & Southern Ports

The Newark Star Ledger on December 1, 2013 ran a wire-story about how global shipping routes are expected to undergo a shake-up with the planned opening of the Panama Canal in 2015. As the story stated, "For American seaports in the East and South, the opening of the expanded Panama Canal in 2015 holds the promise of significant gains in business, some of it long dominated by the Los Angeles region. And their efforts to become more competitive are getting fresh impetus from the Obama Administration."

The expansion of the Panama

Canal will allow for huge shipping vessels to now come through to Eastern and Southern ports. According to a study released by the Department of Transportation, the more economical service of the bigger vessels could improve the ability of U.S. exports such as grain, coal and petroleum to compete in global markets.



### PAC Name Change

We have officially changed our Political Action Committee (PAC) account name to the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers, PAC. We maintain an active PAC to continue our long standing support of legislators who understand our industry needs. Many elected officials throughout the state have developed a terrific working relationship with us. It is important to continue supporting their hard work and assist them in remaining in the legislature. With your support for our PAC and our continued support of these elected officials we know we will have advocates for our trucking industries.