

## Virginia Port Authority

600 World Trade Center

Norfolk, VA 23510

(757) 683-8000

[www.vaports.com](http://www.vaports.com)

### News Release

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Contact: Joe Harris, Media Relations Manager

Tel: (757) 683-2137 / (800) 446-8098

Cell: (757) 617-0006

Fax: (757) 683-2897

[jharris@vaports.com](mailto:jharris@vaports.com)

Linda Ford, Director of Port Promotion

Tel: (757) 683-2140 / (800) 446-8098

Cell: (757) 615-7704

[lford@vaports.com](mailto:lford@vaports.com)

## US Department of Commerce Recognizes VIP for Promoting Free Trade Outreach

**NORFOLK, VA** – The Virginia Inland Port [VIP] today received a Certificate of Appreciation for Achievement in Trade for its continued collaboration with the U.S. Commercial Service in promoting Free Trade Agreement outreach.

James Davis, Mid-Atlantic regional manager for the Virginia Port Authority [VPA], met with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Undersecretary of International Trade, Christopher Padilla at the VIP office in Front Royal, Va., to accept the honor.

“In addition to coordinating FTA outreach events with CS Northern Virginia and the Top of Virginia Chamber Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Inland Port ably serves the Virginia exporting community through its valuable port services.

“For these services and its partnership on FTA outreach, the U.S. Commercial Service in Northern Virginia would like to recognize the Virginia Inland Port,” Padilla said.

The Virginia Inland Port, owned and operated by the VPA, is a growing intermodal facility where import and export cargo is moved from truck to train or vice versa on its way to market. The facility provides direct rail access to the three VPA owned and operated marine cargo terminals in Hampton Roads. The VPA is the state's leading agency for international transportation and maritime commerce.

The VIP office on Thursday was the site for one in a series of four international trade seminars being hosted by the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce, which represents Clarke, Winchester and Frederick counties. Padilla, as the featured speaker at the event, focused on the importance of the U.S.-Columbia Trade Promotion Agreement that he said will help level the playing field for American businesses.

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**The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) is an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, reporting to the state Secretary of Transportation. The VPA owns and operates four general cargo facilities on behalf of the state: Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Newport News Marine Terminal and the Virginia Inland Port in Warren County. The terminals are operated by Virginia International Terminals, Inc. (VIT) the non-stock, non-profit operating company. The VPA, through terminal earnings generated by VIT, is operationally self-sufficient. The VPA and correlating maritime industry is responsible for 343,000 jobs, \$41 billion in total revenues throughout the Commonwealth.**