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As recently as this May the "Consumer Energy Alliance" published a paper on "Ports: Important National Infrastructure Assets". I've inserted one section that says it all.

A Crisis Facing U.S. Ports

Currently, ports in the United States face a two-pronged crisis. First is the capacity of these transportation facilities to serve new "mega ships" and the second is the capability of U.S. shipyards to construct huge ocean-going vessels has declined significantly in recent decades. While the ability of U.S. shipbuilders to construct commercial ships and rigs peaked around 1980, it fell dramatically after that year. Even the production of small vessels had stagnated in the United States by the turn of the century.

Do these issues matter? Yes. In order to remain economically competitive with the rapidly developing economies of other nations, such as China, Indonesia, and India, the United States must also possess the capacity to export in high volumes. Exports contribute financially to a nation's balance of trade. Importing consumer goods won't necessarily create wealth or produce well-paid jobs within the USA. The failure of U.S. shipyards to maintain output has accompanied a stark decline in port modernity. Now shipbuilders in some other nations have produced vessels which few U.S. ports can accommodate; some industry experts believe the time has arrived to upgrade some American ports to promote exports."