



**John M. Hairston**  
Chief Executive Officer

May 3, 2010

Mr. Donald R. Allee  
Executive Director and CEO  
Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, MS 39501

Dear Executive Director Allee:

To Hancock Bank, our mission of helping people achieve their financial goals and dreams means offering unparalleled customer service deeply rooted in the resilient regional spirit and unique hospitality that distinguish the Gulf South.

Nowhere was that resilient spirit more apparent than in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when the people of the Gulf Coast worked together to restore communities deeply affected by the storm.

We recognize that the revitalization of the Port at Gulfport is essential to the continued recovery of the Gulf Coast, as well as the entire state of Mississippi, from the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina. The Port provides employment opportunities to a diverse group of citizens, many of which are in skilled or labor positions where high wages are hard to find in a troubled economy. The expansion of the Port is a tremendous value to wage-earners in every socio-economic category.

The Mississippi State Port Authority's plan to restore the State Port at Gulfport is an innovative project that we believe will positively affect Gulf Coast recovery efforts.

As the Port's restoration progresses, please contact me or Hancock Bank if there is a need or opportunity for which we may provide assistance.

Sincerely,

John Hairston  
CEO & Chief Operating Officer

cc: Elizabeth Stanga  
Port of Gulfport Restoration-Team Leader  
Mississippi Development Authority