RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, and with neighboring states caused the greatest natural disaster ever to occur in the State of Mississippi and the United States, including almost complete destruction of the facilities and infrastructure of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport; and

WHEREAS, one component of the Rankin First Economic Development Authority’s mission is to improve and better Rankin County as a place to live and earn a living, as well as to involve the organization in areas generally categorized in the economic development profession as the “Four Building Blocks of Economic Development”: Business Development, Work Force Development, Social Infrastructure Development, and Physical Infrastructure Development; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the Rankin First Economic Development Authority and its members that restoration and redevelopment of the Port at Gulfport is essential to the continued economic recovery of the entire state of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport has adopted a concept that focuses on restoration and redevelopment of the Port facilities in such a way as to maintain and protect investment by existing customers at the Port; and facilitate and maximize the future growth of Port operations through private investment; and

WHEREAS, the restoration and redevelopment of the Port facilities would allow and accommodate for future growth that could bring new and better jobs, a higher quality of life, and business and economic development opportunities across Mississippi; and
WHEREAS, the Rankin First Economic Development Authority finds that the Mississippi Stat Port Authority at Gulfport’s plan for restoration and redevelopment aligns with and enhances our organization’s mission of creating a higher quality of life for citizens in Rankin County, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rankin First Economic Development Authority does hereby express its support for the restoration and redevelopment concept for the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport.

Noel Daniels, President
Board of Directors
Rankin First Economic Development Authority