

## **Southwest Mississippi Partnership Resolution of Support for the Port of Gulfport Restoration Program**

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI PARTNERSHIP ENDORSING THE PROPOSED RESTORATION AND REDEVELOPMENT CONCEPT AS ADOPTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE STATE PORT AT GULFPORT.

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast and with neighboring states causing 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, the Southwest Mississippi Partnership is a regional economic development organization which unites the efforts of 10 counties in Southwest Mississippi and promotes harmony, cooperation, and understanding among its members, and facilitates the sharing and networking of resources, information, and personnel to accomplish economic prosperity.

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the Southwest Mississippi Partnership and its members that restoration and redevelopment of the State Port at Gulfport is vital to the continued economic recovery and development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the entire State of Mississippi from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Port of Gulfport's restoration program is to facilitate the restoration of public infrastructure and publicly owned facilities that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, to provide storm mitigation against future damage and to provide for the long term recovery of the operating capacity of the Port; and

WHEREAS, the concept adopted for restoration and redevelopment of the Port would allow and accommodate for future growth of Port facilities, which could bring substantial, new and better jobs; a higher quality of life; maximize the future growth of Port operations through private investment; and bring business and economic development opportunities into the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Mississippi Partnership wishes to express its support for the concept adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport for restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport, finding and declaring the same essential to our joint mission and purpose of advancing the well being of citizens of Mississippi; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwest Mississippi Partnership does hereby express its support for the restoration and redevelopment concept and program for the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport as evidenced by unanimous vote to create this resolution as discussed in the organization's regularly scheduled meeting held December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Cliff Brumfield  
2009 President

