



**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PORT OF GULFPORT RESTORATION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast 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**, the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership, as the leading economic and community development organization in Mississippi's Capital Community, is dedicated to making Metro Jackson a better place to live and work - focused on creating strong relationships that move the community forward, and on promoting business and community growth and development in the metro area for existing and prospective businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the restoration and redevelopment of the Port facilities would allow and accommodate future growth of Port facilities which could bring new and better jobs, a higher quality of life, and business and economic development opportunities into the State of Mississippi, including the greater Jackson area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners for the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport has adopted a plan that focuses on restoration and redevelopment of the Port facilities and operations 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**, it is recognized by the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership that the restoration and redevelopment of the Port at Gulfport is essential to the continued economic recovery and development of the entire State of Mississippi from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina; and

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership finds that the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport's plan for restoration and redevelopment of the State Port at Gulfport aligns with our organization's interest in promoting economic development; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership does hereby express its support for the plan adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport for the restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport.

Adopted by the board of directors this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walter Weems".

Walter Weems  
Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duane O'Neill".

Duane O'Neill  
President