

**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 Alliance, a regional alliance of 12 entities organized to market and promote Greater Jackson; enhance cooperation between various governmental jurisdictions; and facilitate and coordinate economic development efforts for Greater Jackson; 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 businesses and economic development opportunities into the State of Mississippi; 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 Alliance 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 Alliance 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 Alliance 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.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,



Ross Tucker  
Director  
Greater Jackson Alliance