

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE STATE PORT AT GULFPORT

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH MISSISSIPPI INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION ACKNOWLEDGING AND ENDORSING THE PROPOSED RESTORATION AND REDEVELOPMENT CONCEPT AS ADOPTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI PORT AUTHORITY FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT 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, the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association's mission is to help businesses and industries identify new sites — or opportunities to expand existing operations - in north Mississippi, as well as to work toward a stronger regional infrastructure and business climate; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association and its members that restoration and redevelopment of the Port at Gulfport is essential to the continued economic recovery and development 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;

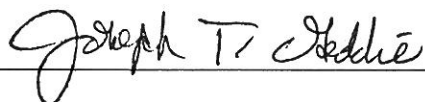
WHEREAS, the restoration and redevelopment of the Port facilities would allow and accommodate for future growth that could bring new and better jobs, a higher quality of life, and business and economic development opportunities across Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association supports the concept adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport because it will allow for short sea shipping through the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway; and

WHEREAS, the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association finds that the plan for restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport aligns with and enhances our organization's mission of improving the well being and quality of life for citizens and communities in the North Mississippi area; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association does hereby express its support for the restoration and redevelopment plan adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport for the State Port.

Signed on January 21, 2010, On Behalf of the Board of Directors of North Mississippi Industrial Development Association.



Joseph T. Geddie, Executive Director



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