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 Stone County Economic Development Partnership is to promote economic development in Stone County to develop, promote and expand existing businesses and industries in Stone County to promote tourism in Stone County to assist and support the development of infrastructure and community services to accommodate a growing economy and community;

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.

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the Stone County Economic Development Partnership 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 from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the Mississippi State Port 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; facilitate and maximize the future growth of Port operations through private investment; and, at the same time, seeks to minimize community displacement, disruption and intrusion by port activities and operations and future storms; 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 coastal region and the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Stone County Economic Development Partnership supports the concept adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport for restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport; and

WHEREAS, the Stone County Economic Development Partnership finds that the adopted plan for restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport aligns with and enhances our organization's mission of improving communities of Mississippi; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stone County Economic Development Partnership does hereby express its wholehearted support for the concept adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport for restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Stone County Economic Development Partnership, on the 9th day of March, 2009.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STONE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

By: 

R. BRENT TICE, CHAIR

Attest:

LUCINDA K. SLOAN, SECRETARY/TREASURER