RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE STATE PORT AT GULFPORT

A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION ACKNOWLEDGING AND ENDORSING THE RESTORATION AND REDEVELOPMENT CONCEPT AS ADOPTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE 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 Mississippi Manufacturers Association is an unrelenting advocate in support of measures and entities benefiting manufacturers, and for more than 50 years has been the clear and united voice of industry in the Magnolia State; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the Mississippi Manufacturers Association and its members that restoration and redevelopment of the Port at Gulfport from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina is essential to the continued economic recovery and development of the entire State; 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; 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 economic development and business opportunities to the entire State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Manufacturers Association believes restoration and redevelopment plan for the State Port at Gulfport aligns with and enhances our organization’s mission to nurture existing business and industry, as well as furthers international waterborne commerce to and from the State of Mississippi; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Manufacturers Association does hereby 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 State Port at Gulfport.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors