

# Mississippi State UNIVERSITY

## Office of the President

July 28, 2009

Mr. Donald R. Allee  
Executive Director and CEO  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
P.O. Box 40  
Gulfport, Mississippi 39502

Dear Mr. Allee:

Restoration and redevelopment of the State Port at Gulfport will be an economic boon to the state as a whole, boosting commerce, economic development, and employment far beyond the coastal regions of Mississippi.

At Mississippi State University, we see tremendous benefits associated with the proposed redevelopment, including more and better job opportunities for our graduates and expanded avenues for university research and service that will benefit the Gulf Coast.

MSU is pleased to support the Port Authority concept for restoring, protecting, and expanding the State Port at Gulfport, which will be an increasingly important element in Mississippi's economic future. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Keenum  
President