



MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
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A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGING AND ENDORSING THE PROPOSED RESTORATION AND REDEVELOPMENT CONCEPT AS ADOPTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AT GULFPORT.

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 Mississippi Economic Development Council's purpose is to improve Mississippi communities through development of their resources; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the Mississippi Economic Development Council and its members that restoration and redevelopment of the Port at Gulfport is vital to the continued economic recovery and development of Gulfport, Harrison County, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and the entire State of Mississippi from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the concept adopted for restoration and redevelopment of the Port facilities would allow and accommodate future growth of Port facilities which could bring substantial, new and better jobs; a higher quality of life; facilitate and maximize the future growth of Port operations through private investment and bring business and economic development opportunities into the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Economic Development Council wishes to express its 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, finding and declaring the same essential to our joint mission and purpose of advancing the well being of citizens of Mississippi; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Economic Development Council does hereby express its 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 BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, this the 9 day of June, 2009.

David P. Rumbarger, President
Mississippi Economic Development Council, Inc.