

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 Area Development Partnership's mission is to stimulate economic growth through the resources of its members and partners leading to an improved economic well-being and quality of life for greater Hattiesburg area citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the Area Development Partnership and its members that restoration and redevelopment of the Port at Gulfport is essential to the continued economic recovery and development of South Mississippi and the entire State 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 Hattiesburg area, South Mississippi, and the entire State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Area 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 Area 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 the economic well-being and quality of life for citizens and communities in the greater Hattiesburg area; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Area 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.

On Behalf of Board of Directors

Mike Collins, Chair
Joe Paul, Vice Chair
Greg Garraway, Treasurer
Ted Webb, Immediate Past Chair
Angeline Godwin, President