



Resolution Supporting the Port at Gulfport

A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 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 Gulf Coast Alliance for Economic Development is to market regionally, nationally, and internationally, the South Mississippi region for economic development, enticement of new industry, and job creation;

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance for Economic Development and its members that restoration and redevelopment of the Port at Gulfport is vital to the continued economic recovery and development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the entire State of Mississippi from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina; 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 while at the same time seeking to minimize community displacement, disruption and intrusion by port activities and operations; and bring business and economic development opportunities into the coastal region and the State of Mississippi; and

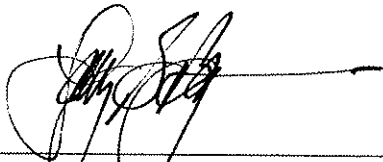
WHEREAS, the purpose of the Port of Gulfport's restoration program is to facilitate the restoration of public infrastructure and publicly owned facilities that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, to provide storm mitigation against future damage and to provide for the long term recovery of the operating capacity of the Port.

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance for Economic Development wishes to express its enthusiastic 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, especially those in South Mississippi; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance for Economic Development 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.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport is encouraged to proceed with the restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport, while continuing to work with Gulf Coast leaders and interest groups to address and accommodate community needs and concerns associated with this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry S. Barnett', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Larry S. Barnett, President

Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance for Economic Development