

 **HANJIN SHIPPING AMERICA, LLC.**

80 ROUTE 4 EAST, SUITE 490, PARAMUS, NJ 07652 • TEL. (201) 291-4600 • FAX. (201) 291-9393

October 7, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

As an ocean carrier, we have invested heavily in building bigger ships to move cargo in the global marketplace in a more efficient manner. It is critical that we are able to move these ships drafting 48 feet without tidal restriction through the Charleston Harbor channel. These ships need 52 feet of depth to accomplish this task.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening. It is also essential for ocean carriers who need to call on modern ports capable of handling larger ships with deeper drafts.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that South Carolina, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening. They understand what carriers know: this project is critical to accommodate cargo movement in the global marketplace.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Yoon Han Jung  
Managing Director  
Hanjin Shipping Company  
80 East Route 4 Suite 490  
Paramus, NJ 07652



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October 7, 2014

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

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Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Radak', written in a cursive style.

Mike Radak  
Senior Vice President -  
Sales / Marketing & Operations  
Hanjin Shipping Company  
80 East Route 4 Suite 490  
Paramus, NJ 07652



November 3, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

As an ocean carrier, our Principal Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp. has invested heavily in building bigger ships to move cargo in the global marketplace in a more efficient manner. It is critical that we are able to move these ships drafting 48 feet without tidal restriction through the Charleston Harbor channel. These ships need 52 feet of depth to accomplish this task.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening. It is also essential for ocean carriers who need to call on modern ports capable of handling larger ships with deeper drafts.

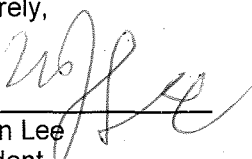
This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that South Carolina, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening. They understand what carriers know: this project is critical to accommodate cargo movement in the global marketplace.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. On behalf of our Principal Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp., I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wenjin Lee  
President  
Yang Ming (America) Corp.

**Wolfgang Freese**  
President

Hapag-Lloyd (America) Inc.  
399 Hoes Lane  
Piscataway, NJ 08854  
Phone (732) 885-6100  
Fax (732) 885-3756  
wolfgang.freese@hlag.com  
www.hapag-lloyd.com

October 6, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith,

I am writing to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

As an ocean carrier, we have invested heavily in building bigger ships to move cargo in the global marketplace in a more efficient manner. It is critical that we are able to move these ships drafting 48 feet without tidal restriction through the Charleston Harbor channel. These ships will need 52 feet of depth to accomplish this task.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening. It is also essential for ocean carriers to call on modern ports capable of handling larger ships with deeper drafts so we can continue to offer local customers the service they require at competitive prices and needed to help grow the America economy.

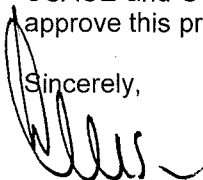
This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that South Carolina, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening. They understand what carriers know: **this project is critical to accommodate cargo movement in the global marketplace.**

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era so we all can continue to offer our customers an outstanding product with efficient services at competitive prices.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Wolfgang Freese  
President

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

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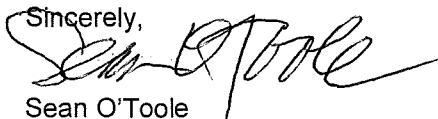
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Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Sean O'Toole  
Senior Operations Manager  
Hapag-Lloyd (America), Inc.

 **Hapag-Lloyd**  
Container Line  
4975 Lacross Road  
Suite 252  
North Charleston, SC 29406

10/01  
09/03

# MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY (USA) INC.

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

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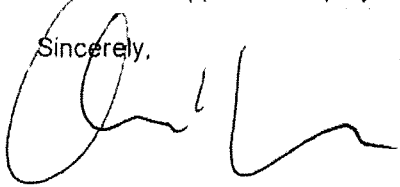
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USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,





# EVERGREEN

VICE GROUP CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE  
ONE EVERTRUST PLAZA  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302  
TEL: (201) 761-3100

October 9, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

As an ocean carrier, we have invested heavily in building bigger ships to move cargo in the global marketplace in a more efficient manner. It is critical that we are able to move these ships drafting 48 feet without tidal restriction through the Charleston Harbor channel. These ships need 52 feet of depth to accomplish this task.

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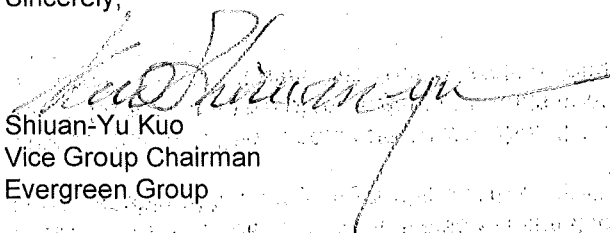
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Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Shiu-an-Yu Kuo  
Vice Group Chairman  
Evergreen Group



HAMBURG SÜD NORTH AMERICA, INC.

October 7, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

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USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Juergen Pump  
Senior Vice President





# "K" LINE AMERICA, INC.



8730 Stony Point Parkway, Suite 400  
Richmond, VA 23235  
(804) 560-3600

October 8, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

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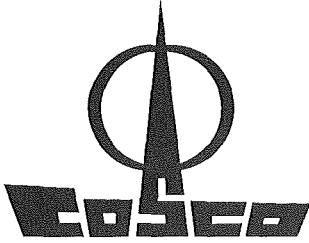
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Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kessery  
Senior Vice President, North America Sales



China Ocean Shipping Company Americas, Inc.

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

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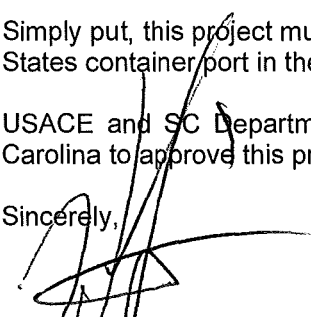
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Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

  
Howard Finkel  
Vice President  
COSCO Americas, Inc.



Norfolk Southern Corporation  
Three Commercial Place  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-9251  
Telephone: 757/629-2748  
FAX: 757/629-2849  
[robert.martinez@nscorp.com](mailto:robert.martinez@nscorp.com)

Robert E. Martínez  
Vice President  
Business Development

October 17, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

Norfolk Southern is in full support of the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

We believe this project is essential to South Carolina's economic future, and is in line with the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders who have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds that the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner.

Norfolk Southern fully supports forward progression of this project. The Port of Charleston is an important part of our rail network and we consider both the port and the state of South Carolina partners in growth. Understanding that the USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project, I respectfully request that you approve it as well.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

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This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Raymond Kotowski  
Import Customer Service Manager  
Shipco Transport Inc. Charleston, SC  
Phone : +1 843-744-8336 Ext.24067  
Toll free: +1 866-400-9390  
Direct : +1 843-377-2067  
Fax : +1 843-744-5226  
Cell : +1 843-343-2296  
Email : rkotowski@shipco.com  
skype : sti\_rkotowski  
Web : www.shipco.com



**SALMONS DREDGING CORPORATION**  
Marine Contractors Since 1919

Post Office Box 42  
Charleston, SC 29402  
Tel: (843) 722-2921  
Fax: (843) 723-4630

[www.salmonsdredging.com](http://www.salmonsdredging.com)

October 27, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
Post 45 Comments  
USACE -- Planning and Environmental Branch  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmit,

Salmons Dredging Corporation is in full support of the US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement Assessment, as relates to the recommendation to go to 52' depth in Charleston Harbor.

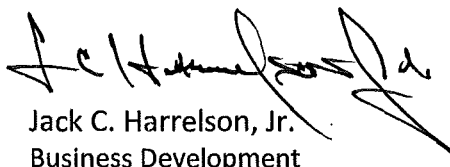
As a 96 year old marine construction firm anchored in the Port of Charleston, our business will be positively influenced by the ability of our port to be able to service Post-Panamax Vessels, 24 hours a day, without restriction to tidal influence.

Additionally, deepening Charleston Harbor to 52' will help facilitate trade and economic development for our local port, surrounding cities, our entire state, region and nation, which is why this project has been wholly supported across party lines by both our local, state and congressional leaders.

We have every confidence that this project will be accomplished with minimal negative impact to our local environment, and by allowing the 52' depth, should even result in an overall decrease in the number of vessels calling our historic port (bigger vessels vs a larger number of smaller vessels).

Salmon's commends the US Army Corps of Engineers staff and leadership for both the quality of the assessment/report, and the speed with which it was accomplished. A hearty "Thank You" to all of those who contributed.

Sincerely,  
Salmons Dredging Corporation



Jack C. Harrelson, Jr.  
Business Development



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project. This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I represent the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics (TDL) Council, an industry cluster supported by the SC Council on Competitiveness, to bring together public and private sector leaders to help South Carolina compete for jobs, investment and leadership for the TDL industry of South Carolina. The TDL industry represents over 96,000 jobs in the state of South Carolina and over 12,000 companies with annual revenues of \$17.7 billion. The Council works to identify and eliminate major industry obstacles and roadblocks to competitiveness with regards to infrastructure, incentives, workforce and more, and the harbor deepening project is critical to further increasing the state's competitiveness and prosperity.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deepal Elitamby', is written over a circular stamp or seal. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Deepal Elitamby  
President of Alliance Consulting Engineers  
Chair of the South Carolina Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics Council



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

Colliers is in the business of assisting Distribution Center and Manufacturers. We are well aware of the investments in bigger ships to more efficiently move cargo around the globe. To realize the benefits of big ships, it is critical that they can move at a draft of 48 feet without tidal restrictions. That requires a channel depth of 52 feet.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, as well as the future of U.S. distribution and manufacturing. While it is essential for ocean carriers, who need to call on modern ports capable of handling larger ships with deeper drafts, it is also important to me and my company.

In addition, South Carolina's Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated broad support for harbor deepening. This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of funding for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that South Carolina, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening. They understand what the international shipping community knows: this project is critical to moving cargo around the world.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds that the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward so that Charleston remains a top 10 United States container port.

The Corps and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hagood Morrison".

Hagood Morrison  
Colliers International of Charleston, LLC

SOUTH CAROLINA  
**TRUCKING ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

2425 DEVINE STREET, PO BOX 50166 • COLUMBIA, SC 29250-0166 • 803-799-4306 • FAX 803-254-7148 • www.sc trucking.org

October 9, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

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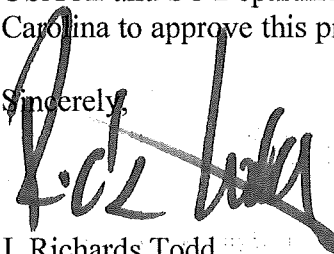
This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



J. Richards Todd  
President

SOUTH CAROLINA MOVES BY TRUCK

**Chairman:**

Jerome Jones, N. W. White & Co., Columbia

**President & CEO:**

J. Richards Todd

**Vice Chairman:**

Jerry Smith, Associated Petroleum Carriers, Spartanburg  
Ronald Cooper, B. W. Mitchum Trucking Co., Mt. Pleasant  
Keith Johnson, H & J Trucking, Inc., Mt. Pleasant

**Treasurer:**

Richard Bogan, Southeastern Freight Lines, W. Columbia

**Immediate Past Chairman:**

Ken Willingham, Thompson Trucking Co., Charleston





P.O. Box 40247  
Charleston, SC 29423-0247  
(803) 744-1651  
FAX (803) 747-3539

*November 6, 2014*

*Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403*

*Dear Mr. Messersmith,*

*As a local resident that grew up only blocks from the waterfront piers, I understand completely the importance of the 52-foot harbor deepening project for the Port of Charleston. I support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval of this project.*

*My company has been involved with the movement of cargo through these docks for over 55 years and I have grown up with the growth of containerization and the ships that move the containers. I have served for six years on the S.C. Commission of Pilotage and gained an inside knowledge of the demands and needs of a channel deep enough to safely move these ever-growing vessels. There is a safety element to this need for deepening the channel to 52' as well as the commercial need.*

*The South Carolina State Ports Authority has done a very good job expanding the scope of the Port of Charleston beyond the state borders to the point that we are now becoming critical to manufacturing and distribution throughout the South Atlantic and Southeastern region of the U.S. This is all the more reason to approve this worthy project.*

*Thank you for your consideration,*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod D. Moseley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

*Rod D. Moseley  
Chairman  
Bulldog Hiway Express  
Charleston, SC*



October 16, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

As a motor carrier heavily involved in container drayage in and out of Charleston, I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

We serve other ports in the region as well, but our export volume out of Charleston is higher than any others. It is critical that we do everything we can to support our country's ability to manufacture products and export them globally, both now and many years into the future.

We do not want a shallow harbor berth to cost the US any opportunity to compete with other nations that can handle larger vessels and thus leverage their opportunity to gain market share.

We have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally and fiscally-responsible manner.

Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

It is our ardent hope that the Corps will approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Scott Batey". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

T. Scott Batey  
CEO

# Ogletree Deakins

**OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH,  
SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.**

*Attorneys at Law*

1320 Main Street, Suite 600

Columbia, SC 29201

Telephone: 803.252.1300

Facsimile: 803.254.6517

[www.ogletreedeakins.com](http://www.ogletreedeakins.com)

October 23, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

As citizens of the State of South Carolina who are concerned that we maintain and operate modern shipping infrastructure at the ports of our state, we urge the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to approve the proposed 52-foot Charleston harbor deepening project.

The port not only supports a large number of employees directly, it plays a huge role in providing employment for hundreds of thousands of other South Carolinians who work for our manufacturing, retail, transportation and service industries. Charleston's terminal productivity is the best in the nation, but to truly be competitive in our region we also must have the ability to serve post-Panamax ships without tidal restriction.

The Governor, General Assembly and leaders across our state have shown their support for this effort. This project is not just important to Charleston. Companies in every county of South Carolina depend on our port to import materials and goods for their business and export their finished products to customers across the globe.

We believe the USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement was carefully and objectively performed and properly finds the harbor deepening project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
October 23, 2014  
Page 2

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USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. The undersigned respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash,  
Smoak & Stewart, PC

*Katharine Dudley Adams*

*A. Fowler*

*Elizabeth B. Patton*

*W. D. Decker*

*BT*

*PL*

*J. D. Smith*

*CL*

*Chas. Jones*

Preston R. Burch

# Ogletree Deakins

**OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH,  
SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.**

*Attorneys at Law*

211 King Street, Suite 200  
Charleston, SC 29401  
Telephone: 843.853.1300  
Facsimile: 843.853.9992  
www.ogletreedeakins.com

October 24, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

As citizens of the State of South Carolina who are concerned that we maintain and operate modern shipping infrastructure at the ports of our state, we urge the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to approve the proposed 52-foot Charleston harbor deepening project.

The port not only supports a large number of employees directly, it plays a huge role in providing employment for hundreds of thousands of other South Carolinians who work for our manufacturing, retail, transportation and service industries. Charleston's terminal productivity is the best in the nation, but to truly be competitive in our region we also must have the ability to serve post-Panamax ships without tidal restriction.

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We believe the USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement was carefully and objectively performed and properly finds the harbor deepening project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

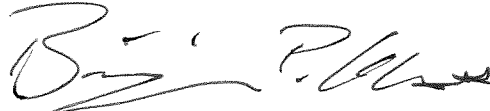
Mr. Mark Messersmith  
October 24, 2014  
Page 2

Ogletree  
Deakins

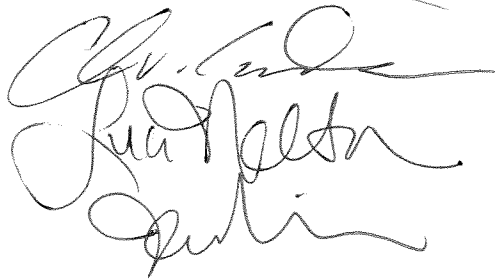
USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. The undersigned respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash,  
Smoak & Stewart, PC



19283173.1



# Ogletree Deakins

**OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH,  
SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.**

*Attorneys at Law*

The Ogletree Building  
300 North Main Street, Suite 500  
Greenville, SC 29601  
Telephone: 864.271.1300  
Facsimile: 864.235.4754  
www.ogletreedeakins.com

November 6, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

As citizens of the State of South Carolina who are concerned that we maintain and operate modern shipping infrastructure at the ports of our state, we urge the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to approve the proposed 52-foot Charleston harbor deepening project.

The port not only supports a large number of employees directly, it plays a huge role in providing employment for hundreds of thousands of other South Carolinians who work for our manufacturing, retail, transportation and service industries. Charleston's terminal productivity is the best in the nation, but to truly be competitive in our region we also must have the ability to serve post-Panamax ships without tidal restriction.

The Governor, General Assembly and leaders across our state have shown their support for this effort. This project is not just important to Charleston. Companies in every county of South Carolina depend on our port to import materials and goods for their business and export their finished products to customers across the globe.

We believe the USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement was carefully and objectively performed and properly finds the harbor deepening project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. The undersigned respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,


Ogletree, Deakins, Nash,  
Smoak & Stewart, P.C.



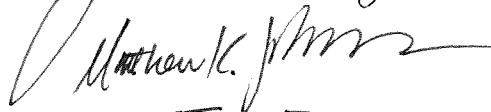
R.A. Phinney



Andrew Friedrich



Thomas G. Bryant



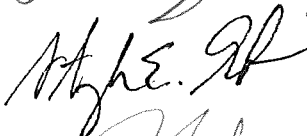
Matthew K. Jones



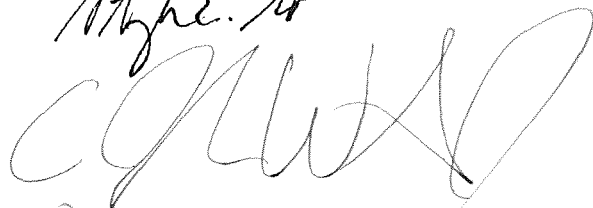
Fred W. Duggan



Lucas J. Caper



M. H. Galt



Emily O'Brian

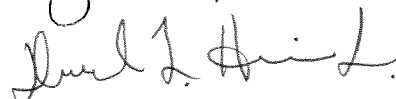
Emily O'Brian



Ethan A. Culp



Janet Q. Lewis



David L. Hill





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United States

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F 843.724.7201

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October 27, 2014



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to our region and our state's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

Charleston's ports contribute more than \$44 billion in annual economic impact to our state and the proposed deepening will help to ensure that our ports are positioned to compete globally for many, many years to come. The deepening will allow us to accommodate the Post Panamax ships 24/7 and 365 days per year. The deepening is critical to maintain our global competitiveness.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have my full support to approve this project. Please move this project as fast as possible.

Sincerely,

Leslie M. Fellabom  
Senior Vice President  
Office & Investment Services



MeadWestvaco Corporation  
Community Development  
and Land Management Group  
201 Sigma Drive, Suite 400  
Summerville, SC 29483

+1 843.871.5000 T  
+1 843.875.7185 F  
mww.com

November 5, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential for our business and to South Carolina's economic future. The Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the Project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. It is my opinion that Charleston is the best location to conduct a deepening project in the southeastern United States from both an economic and environmental perspective.

Simply put, this Project must go forward for the well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

James H. Hill  
Vice President  
Commercial and Industrial Development



**EXPORT &  
DOMESTIC  
PACKING INC.**

1300 E. DEVON AVE., ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL 60007-5831  
PHONE 847/593-4200 FAX 847/593-4209

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

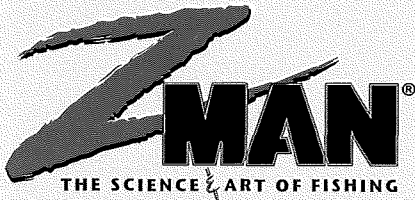
I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul C. ...', is written over a faint, illegible typed name.



November 5, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I am the General Manager and Executive Vice President of Z-Man Fishing Products, Inc. in Ladson, and the purpose of my letter is endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

While we are not a huge company, port expansion is of significant interest to Z-Man and its employees. In the last few years, we have grown our international business significantly. This year, over 20% of our total sales have been to overseas customers, and that percentage is growing. Reducing lead times and freight costs is of utmost importance to continuing to grow that business. Furthermore, while much of our manufacturing is domestic, we source many of the components we use to make these products, as well as some turnkey items, from factories in China and Vietnam. A reliable supply chain is essential in order to meet our customers' seasonal and constantly changing needs for these products. Currently, some of these items do not arrive via the Port of Charleston, increasing our freight costs and lead times.

Moreover, this project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening. This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Daniel Nussbaum

**Z-MAN Fishing Products Inc.**

4100 Carolina Commerce Pkwy, Ladson, SC 29456

(p) 843-377-0760 • (f) 843-377-2800 • email: [info@zmanfishing.com](mailto:info@zmanfishing.com)

[zmanfishing.com](http://zmanfishing.com)



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United States

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October 27, 2014



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Fraser, CCIM  
Principal, Managing Director, South Carolina



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Mount Pleasant, SC 29464  
United States

T 843.725.7200  
F 843.724.7201

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October 28, 2014



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to our region and our state's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

Charleston's ports contribute more than \$44 billion in annual economic impact to our state and the proposed deepening will help to ensure that our ports are positioned to compete globally for many, many years to come. The deepening will allow us to accommodate the Post Panamax ships 24/7 and 365 days per year. The deepening is critical to maintain our global competitiveness.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have my full support to approve this project. Please move this project as fast as possible.

Sincerely,

Charlene Aydelotte Massey  
Business Operations Manager



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Real Estate  
Solutions

550 Long Point Road  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464  
United States

T 843.725.7200  
F 843.724.7201

avisonyoung.com



October 28, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Willits  
Principal, Managing Director, Charleston



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Solutions

550 Long Point Road  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464  
United States

T 843.725.7200  
F 843.724.7201

avisonyoung.com

October 28, 2014



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to our region and our state's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

Charleston's ports contribute more than \$44 billion in annual economic impact to our state and the proposed deepening will help to ensure that our ports are positioned to compete globally for many, many years to come. The deepening will allow us to accommodate the Post Panamax ships 24/7 and 365 days per year. The deepening is critical to maintain our global competitiveness.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have my full support to approve this project. Please move this project as fast as possible.

Sincerely,

Todd P. Garrett, CCIM  
Principal  
Industrial & Investment Services



# Nelson Mullins

## Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP

Attorneys and Counselors at Law  
104 South Main Street / Ninth Floor / Greenville, SC 29601  
Tel: 864.250.2300 Fax: 864.232.2925  
www.nelsonmullins.com

Ambassador David H. Wilkins  
Tel: 864.250.2231  
Fax: 864.232.2925  
david.wilkins@nelsonmullins.com

October 13, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
Charleston District  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

It is my pleasure to join those who are contacting the United States Army Corps of Engineers (“the Corps”) during the comment period on the proposed “Post-45 Harbor Deepening Project” of the South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA), that would facilitate the deepening of the Charleston Harbor to expand the Port of Charleston’s ability to accommodate post-Panamax vessels and to meet the needs of our ever-changing global water-based commerce system. Our firm has represented SCSPA for a number of years in the area of federal government relations. I have actively supported this proposed project and was gratified by the publication this week of the Corps’ Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (FR/DEIS), which recommends the deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet.

The South Carolina General Assembly has demonstrated its strong support for this proposed project by reserving the full estimated share of the deepening construction costs, should it be needed. As a Former Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, I applaud the significant bipartisan endorsement of this proposed project by the legislators of our State. Additionally, the leadership of important businesses and other stakeholders throughout the State, who rely on the Port of Charleston as an essential partner in their operations, are demonstrating their support for the proposed deepening project.

Also, I am encouraged by the Corps’ findings that this proposed project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner and I find it to be especially noteworthy that this project would be one of the first in our Country to be implemented from start-to-finish under the Corps’ new streamlined civil works planning process. South Carolinians can indeed be proud that the process that is being utilized to develop this proposed project is to be a national model for future Corps’ initiatives.

October 13, 2014

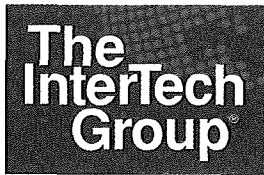
Page 2

The "Post-45 Harbor Deepening Project" is absolutely vital to the economic interests of our State and our Nation. It will allow us the means to excel in an increasingly competitive global marketplace and to demonstrate the effectiveness of the partnership of the Corps and the SCSPA. Accordingly, I respectfully request that the recommendations that are made in the FR/DEIS be approved and implemented, as soon as possible within the applicable statutes and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David H. Wilkins".

David H. Wilkins



Jeff Winkler

Senior Corporate Counsel

October 24, 2014

Post 45 Comments  
Attn: Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

**RE: Harbor Deepening Project: In Full Support**

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

Having lived in the Charleston area for well over 40 years, I have been eyewitness to many changes affecting the Port of Charleston. The current deepening project is the single most important improvement needed by the maritime industry in the past two decades and will help sustain the continued growth of the economies of South Carolina, the Southeast and the Nation. Yes, this project is of national importance.

Please accept this letter as my full support for the US Army Corps of Engineer's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project to make the Port of Charleston the deepest port on the East Coast in the largest exporting region in the United States.

Often major infrastructure projects can become politically-charged partisan footballs. Not this one. With significant bipartisan agreement at the state and federal levels, our elected officials overwhelmingly endorsed this project. In fact, Governor Haley, the SC General Assembly, business groups and trade associations across the state all supported the General Assembly's decision to set aside the state's \$300 million share of the funds needed for the project. With the federal cost share of another \$166 million, this construction guarantees a significant positive return measured by objective standards such as export growth and job creation. Dovetailing nicely with the President's national goals of exponentially increasing US export, this matter is a must.

So you will understand the context from which I write, I am an environmentalist with an undergraduate degree in botany. In reading about the environmental impact of this deepening, I am convinced that this can be accomplished in low cost, easily mitigated and environmentally responsible manner. There are environmentally positive aspects of this deepening included in the study.

I respectfully request that the 52-foot recommendations be approved. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Winkler



Anita G. Zucker  
Chairperson &  
Chief Executive Officer

November 3, 2014

Post 45 Comments  
Attn: Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

**Re: Full Support of 52-foot Harbor Deepening Project**

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

While I write today as a CEO, business owner and resident of the State of South Carolina, I recognize that the deepening of the Charleston Harbor is an issue of national importance. Please accept this letter as my full support for the US Army Corps' proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project. Once completed, the Port of Charleston will be the deepest port on the East Coast in the largest exporting region in the United States and is certain to benefit our state, regional and national economies.

In a show of overwhelming bipartisan support, our General Assembly voted to set aside \$300 million to fund the majority of the state's share of construction. South Carolina is the only state to make such a commitment and is prepared to proceed immediately upon final approval. The full federal cost share of approximately \$166 million will be a prudent expenditure of taxpayers' money with a significant return on investment.

The global maritime community is demanding 24/7 port availability without tide restrictions. Our port is poised to provide this and is already handling significant numbers of post-Panamax ships on favorable tides. The Obama Administration rightfully recognizes Charleston's Port as part of its *We Can't Wait* initiative focused on critical national maritime infrastructure.

When compared to other port deepening projects, Charleston emerges as a top choice due to its naturally deep harbor reducing the need for extensive dredging, overspending and unnecessary environmental impact. Per the study, a full mitigation plan is in place to handle the construction in an environmentally responsible manner.

I believe in this project and the benefits it will bring to our community for generations to come. As a caring and passionate supporter of our community, I see this harbor improvement as a necessary next step towards ensuring we are prepared to compete globally. I believe this project is essential to preserve, protect and grow the job opportunities and export revenues that will fuel the continued growth of our state and the Southeast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anita G. Zucker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint, illegible background.

Anita G. Zucker

AGZ



Urban League of  
The Upstate, Inc.

15 Regency Hill Drive  
Greenville, SC 29607

P 864 244 3862  
F 864 244 6134

[www.urbanleagueupstate.org](http://www.urbanleagueupstate.org)

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*

10/9/2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Jil Littlejohn  
President & CEO  
Urban League of the Upstate



**Columbia**  
Urban League

1400 Barnwell Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

P 803 799 8150  
F 803 254 6052

[www.columbiaurbanleague.org](http://www.columbiaurbanleague.org)

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*

October 14, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

We are writing this letter endorsing the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project. This project is critical to South Carolina's economic future. Also, the Governor, General Assembly, along with business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

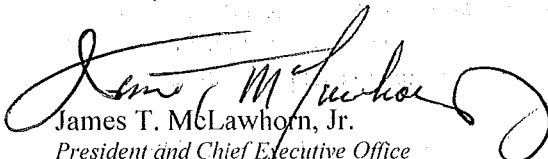
The South Carolina General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, this project should not adversely impact the environment.

In essence, this project is a must for the state's economic well-being and for future generations. Our port system is connected to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



James T. McLawhorn, Jr.  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

JTMjr/ch



**South Carolina Business & Industry Political Education Committee**

October 16, 2014

Dear Mr. Messersmith,

Please allow me to introduce myself, and more importantly, the South Carolinians SC BIPEC represents. Our association's Members employ hundreds of thousands of South Carolina residents that are touched every day in their work and home lives by the South Carolina Ports.

SC BIPEC Members range from large manufacturers to banks to utilities to small businesses with three or fewer employees. Their jobs, their cars and even the food on their tables are directly affected each day by South Carolina Ports.

Ordinarily, we would stress the quantifiable impacts measured in multipliers, revenues, demographics, wages and jobs, but there is a human side to the ports that is often overlooked. This is measured in good health, opportunities to provide for one's family, a sense of contributing to a greater good and even to warm holiday smiles on the faces of people of all ages.

Our hope is that the economy of our state and nation will continue to heal and prosper in the days ahead. The USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement addresses the financial needs and opportunities of our citizens in an environmentally responsible manner. Our Members understand the benefits of growth offered by harbor deepening while being responsible stewards of our environment. This project is a sterling example of same.

Mr. Messersmith, we are grateful for your efforts to date and respectfully ask that you support the findings of the USACE report to accommodate vessels in a post-Panamax world. Our state and our nation depend upon it.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. DeLoach  
President/CEO SC BIPEC



October 16, 2014

CH POWELL COMPANY  
478 WANDO PARK BOULEVARD  
MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464

P) 843.856.2480  
F) 843.856.2485  
W) CHPOWELL.COM

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

On behalf of the board members and community supported by the South Carolina International Trade Conference, I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

The importance of this project for the tri-county region, South Carolina entirely, and Southeast region cannot be overstated. The maritime community and those directly and indirectly employed by maritime industries, depend on the success of our state port. The mission of our organization is to support all those affiliated with maritime industries. We have done so for over 41 years.

- ATLANTA
- BALTIMORE
- BOSTON
- CHARLESTON
- CHICAGO
- GREENVILLE/  
SPARTANBURG
- HOUSTON
- LOS ANGELES
- MIAMI
- NEW ORLEANS
- NEW YORK
- NORFOLK
- ST. LOUIS
- SAVANNAH
- SEATTLE

Our support, along with other organizations and individuals that support the SC maritime community, resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project-the only state to have done so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, came together to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. No one appreciates more the protection of the waterfront environment here than those who work in it and around it daily.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Joyce Greene, Ocean Forwarding Manager  
C.H. Powell Company/ Tandem Global Logistics



October 8, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

This letter, as a sitting Board of Director with the South Carolina International Trade Conference Board, is written to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project

As one with a long time career in a Port related industry and with a prominent steamship line, I cannot stress enough the importance of this project for South Carolina and the Southeast region. Those directly and indirectly employed by maritime industries depend on the success of our state port. With the pending completion of the Panama Canal Expansion in 2016 we must be able to accommodate the size vessels that will surely expand service on the East Coast and the Port of Charleston. The expensive delays caused by vessels limited by tides and draft will only be passed along to shippers.

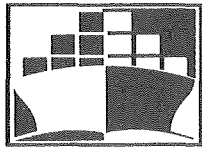
I and the rest of the SCITC Board strongly support this harbor deepening project and have been pleased thus far by the support from our State legislature.

I trust the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which determined the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Therefore I respectfully request full consideration to move forward with this project and appreciate your efforts to do all possible to insure it happens.

Kind Regards,

Denise Lee  
South Carolina International Trade Conference Board  
1938 Clements Ferry Road  
Wando, SC 29492



# S.C. International Trade Conference

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

On behalf of the board members and community supported by the South Carolina International Trade Conference, I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

The importance of this project for the tri-county region, South Carolina entirely, and Southeast region cannot be overstated. The maritime community and those directly and indirectly employed by maritime industries, depend on the success of our state port. The mission of our organization is to support all those affiliated with maritime industries. We have done so for over 41 years.

Our support, along with other organizations and individuals that support the SC maritime community, resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to have done so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, came together to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. No one appreciates more the protection of the waterfront environment here than those who work in it and around it daily.

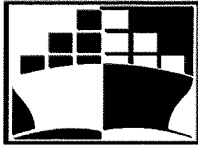
Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do too.

Sincerely,

  
Mac Forehand

2015 General Chairman  
South Carolina International Trade Conference  
P.O. Box 1446  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465



# S.C. International Trade Conference

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

On behalf of the board members and community supported by the South Carolina International Trade Conference, I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

The importance of this project for the tri-county region, South Carolina entirely, and Southeast region cannot be overstated. The maritime community and those directly and indirectly employed by maritime industries, depend on the success of our state port. The mission of our organization is to support all those affiliated with maritime industries. We have done so for over 41 years.

Our support, along with other organizations and individuals that support the SC maritime community, resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to have done so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, came together to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. No one appreciates more the protection of the waterfront environment here than those who work in it and around it daily.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Watt Jackson', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Watt Jackson  
Vice President  
SELEE Corporation  
700 Shepherd Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

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# The Gullah Sentinel

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909 Bladen Street, Beaufort, SC 29902

Office: (843) 379-0004 • E-mail: [gullah@thegullahnews.net](mailto:gullah@thegullahnews.net)

Web: [www.gullahnewspaper.net](http://www.gullahnewspaper.net)

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

This letter is being written to express our support for the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's 52-foot harbor deepening proposition. This project is without a doubt important to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.


This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have complete trust in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds that the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, "let's get on with this project," it must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for the many generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. If we fail to move forward on the deepening of the the harbor, which would accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock, it would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Jabari Moketsi  
Gullah Sentinel Newspaper

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"Voice of the Gullah People"

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# FREE MEDICAL CLINIC OF DARLINGTON COUNTY

*"What you do for them, you do for Me." Matthew 25:40*

November 6, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I am writing today to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Kathy B. Hancock  
Executive Director



October 30, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

As a life-long resident and 5<sup>th</sup> generation Charlestonian, I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future; the vast majority of elected official and business groups have voiced support for harbor deepening. And in a time of political partisanship, the General Assembly funded the project in an encouraging bi-partisan vote.

And just as important, it appears this critical project can be performed in an environmentally responsible manner.

So for the future of Charleston, and South Carolina, this project must move forward so we can remain competitive in the post-Panamax era. The implications of not proceeding are just too great for all of us to bear.

Finally, South Carolina supports this project, as well as USACE and South Carolina DHEC. I hope you do as well.

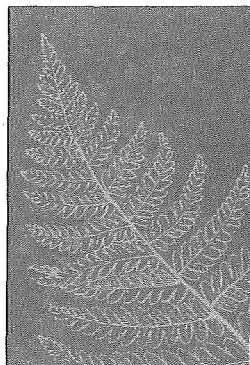
Best wishes,



Margaret T. Seidler  
Seidler & Associates, LLC

PHONE • 843.573.3485  
FAX • 843.763.3650

1260 Winchester Drive  
Charleston, SC 29407  
margaret@margaretseidler.com  
www.margaretseidler.com





**Jack L Jones**  
Vice President/General Mgr  
South Carolina  
787 Program

The Boeing Company  
5400 International Blvd. MC 7830-SW81  
North Charleston, SC 29418

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October 20, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

The Boeing Company supports the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

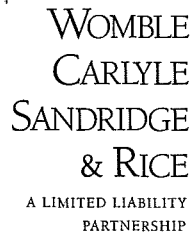
The importance of the project for the tri-county region, the state of South Carolina, and the Southeast region cannot be overstated. By choosing South Carolina to manufacture and build 787 Dreamliners, Boeing has invested in the state for generations to come. To that end, deepening the port is essential to the economic well-being of our state for future generations. One of every eleven jobs across the state is tied in some way to the port system. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate around the clock access for post-Panamax vessels would negatively impact the state's collective efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for South Carolinians.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the full support of The Boeing Company for approval of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Jones", written over a white background.

Jack Jones  
Vice President / General Manager  
Boeing South Carolina



5 Exchange Street  
Charleston, SC 29401

Mailing Address:  
Post Office Box 999  
Charleston, SC 29402  
Telephone: (843) 722-3400  
Fax: (843) 723-7398  
www.wcsr.com

Gordon D. Schreck  
Direct Dial: 843-720-4605  
Direct Fax: (843) 723-7398  
E-mail: GSchreck@wcsr.com

October 28, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
Post 45 Comments  
USACE - Planning and Environmental Branch  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

**Re:** Post 45 Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write in support of the Corps' recently released "Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement", and to enthusiastically endorse the Report's recommendation of 52-feet for the Post-45 Charleston Harbor Deepening Project.

As a practicing maritime attorney for almost 45 years, representing virtually all of the commercial cargo and passenger vessels calling at the Port of Charleston, I have observed the Port's dramatic growth and its economic impact not only on the Trident area, but on our entire state. Through the foresight, leadership and hard work of the South Carolina State Ports Authority, the Port of Charleston has succeeded in maximizing the benefits of our harbor's current 45-foot depth, to grow ocean commerce, and attract industry which otherwise would not have considered located in our state. Just a few examples are Michelin, BMW, and Boeing – none of which would be here it were it not for the global supply chain benefits our port provides.

The Port of Charleston's ability to handle post-Panamax vessels 24 hours a day without tidal restriction is critical to the future competitiveness of our state port system. A 52-foot deepening project will facilitate such a scenario by expanding the Port of Charleston's ability to handle the post-Panamax vessels now dominating the ocean carrier industry.

The Panama Canal expansion and the raising of the Bayonne Bridge in New Jersey are expected to result in even larger vessels calling on the East Coast more frequently. With US container trade expected to be export-dominant by 2020, and export containers typically weighing three tons more than import boxes, the need for a Southeast port with a 52-foot harbor depth that can accommodate fully-loaded post-Panamax vessels is a necessity for the economic growth of the entire country. To achieve that end, Charleston is the only option.



Deepening Charleston Harbor to 52-feet will help facilitate trade and economic development for our entire state, region and nation, which is why this project has such unyielding, bipartisan support from our Congressional Delegation and SC General Assembly, who previously set aside the state's share of construction costs. No other state had the foresight or political will to take such an action.

I believe the evidence is also compelling that this project can and will be accomplished with minimal environmental impact and that mitigation measures will go above and beyond what is required. Additionally, a deeper harbor will result in fewer (though larger) ships calling on Charleston, which will result in less air emissions. In other words, a 52-foot harbor will be a win-win situation for our economy **and** our environment.

The expertise and professionalism displayed by the US Army Corps of Engineers on this study is to be commended. As a maritime industry professional, I fully support the Corps' recommendation for implementation of this critically important upgrade to our national transportation system, and trust we will see a 52-foot harbor depth come to fruition in Charleston at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,



Gordon D. Schreck

GDS:cml



LOWCOUNTRY  
UROLOGY CLINICS

www.lowcountryurology.com

October 27, 2014

Mark Messersmith  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69-A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

First of all thanks very much for your work in the Charleston area. Everything you do in the Corps of Engineers certainly effects the Charleston economy and the working people of this area.

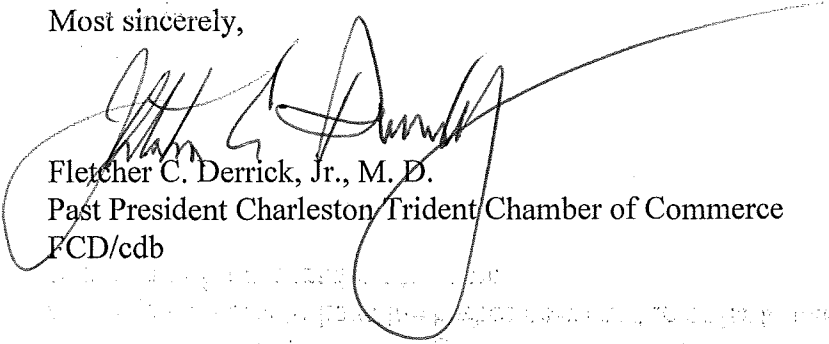
It is my pleasure to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

In order for South Carolina to try to continue its pace as the number one port on the East Coast we need to be ready for the larger deeper draft ships which will be calling on this area. It just makes good sense to have the harbor deepened in order to keep the well-being of our state and community for generations to come.

The USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

It is without any reservation whatsoever that I personally support the project.

Most sincerely,



Fletcher C. Derrick, Jr., M. D.  
Past President Charleston Trident Chamber of Commerce  
FCD/cdb

641 St. Andrews Boulevard, Charleston, SC 29407

Phone: 843-766-9747 Fax: 843-766-3399



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

October 24, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith:

Although I am not involved directly with the port, I believe that we are all connected to this critical part of our state's economy. That is why I am writing to fully endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to our region and our state's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

Charleston's ports contribute more than \$44 billion in annual economic impact to our state and the proposed deepening will help to ensure that our ports are positioned to compete globally for many, many years to come. The deepening will allow us to accommodate the Post Panamax ships 24/7 and 365 days per year. The deepening is critical to maintain our global competitiveness.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have my full support to approve this project. Please move this project as fast as possible.

Sincerely,

  
Willis Cantey  
President, Cantey Technology Consulting

How can we help you?



**Clark Sutton Gillespy**  
President  
Duke Energy - South Carolina

**Duke Energy Carolinas**  
40 W. Broad Street, Suite 690  
Greenville, SC 29601

Oct. 10, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

o: 864.370.5220  
c: 864.630.3248  
Clark.Gillespy@duke-energy.com

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

The USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

This project needs to go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully submit my endorsement and make this request as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clark S. Gillespy'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G' at the end.

Clark S. Gillespy



---

October 16, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

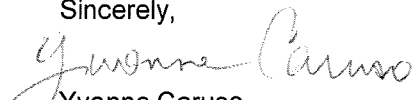
This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

  
Yvonne Caruso  
Corporate Consultant

---

219 Varnfield Drive Summerville, SC 29483  
tel: (843) 875-0240 fax: (843) 821-2285  
orders@grandforest.us www.grandforest.us

October 16, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mark:

This letter, as a sitting Board of Director and Past General Chairman with the South Carolina International Trade Conference Board, is written to enthusiastically endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

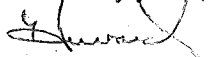
As one with a long time career as a business educator, founding dean (now Emeritus) of the College of Charleston's School of Business, Co-developer of what the industry-academic-government-military steering committee originally named the Intermodal Transportation program, and in my previous role as Co-Director of the Western Europe Study Abroad program (where our students visited international businesses like BMW and Bosch headquartered in Europe but with operations in S.C. as well as the Port of Antwerp every other year), I add my voice to others relative to the importance of this project for South Carolina and the Southeast region both with regard to the physical as well as human infrastructure. Those directly and indirectly employed by maritime industries depend on the success of our state port and that includes the future opportunities for both our graduates of South Carolina universities as well as their advancement opportunities. Not to be forgotten, we have numerous students who intern in the maritime industry and this relevant experience is increasingly critical to gain entry into the marketplace. With the pending completion of the Panama Canal Expansion in 2016 (by the way, our students recently did a study abroad to the Panama Canal), we must be able to accommodate the size vessels that will surely expand service on the East Coast and the Port of Charleston. The expensive delays caused by vessels limited by tides and draft will most likely be passed along to shippers along with the related challenges associated with just-in-time supply chains.

I and the rest of the SCITC Board strongly support this harbor deepening project and have been pleased thus far by the support from our State legislature as well as the tremendous partnering with your staff and leadership team. On a personal note, this is exactly the kind of experience I had when coordinating the medical folk with the contractor and the Corps while building two hospitals in West Texas during the Vietnam Era. The fact that I was given a USAF Commendation Medal for my role should rightly have been shared with people like Sid Savage who was the Corps civilian in charge who had previously worked on construction of Minuteman silos. I will treasure that experience and that partnership always.

Because of my personal experience, I trust the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which determined the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner and will meet if not exceed current timetables.

I respectfully support and enthusiastically request full consideration to move forward with this project and appreciate your team's efforts to make it happen.

Sincerely yours,



Howard F. Rudd, Jr., Ph.D., Past General Chairman  
South Carolina International Trade Conference Board  
1617 Middle Street  
Sullivan's Island, S.C. 29482  
843.883.3568

October 8, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

This letter, as a sitting Board of Director with the South Carolina International Trade Conference Board, is written to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

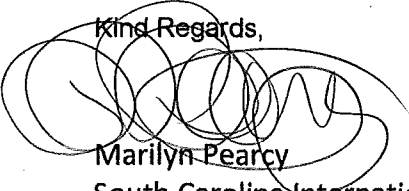
As one with a long time career in a Port related industry and with a prominent steamship line, I cannot stress enough the importance of this project for South Carolina and the Southeast region. Those directly and indirectly employed by maritime industries depend on the success of our state port. With the pending completion of the Panama Canal Expansion in 2016 we must be able to accommodate the size vessels that will surely expand service on the East Coast and the Port of Charleston. The expensive delays caused by vessels limited by tides and draft will only be passed along to shippers.

I and the rest of the SCITC Board strongly support this harbor deepening project and have been pleased thus far by the support from our State legislature.

I trust the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which determined the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Therefore I respectfully request full consideration to move forward with this project and appreciate your efforts to do all possible to insure it happens.

Kind Regards,



Marilyn Percy

South Carolina International Trade Conference Board  
305 Renau Blvd.  
Summerville, S.C. 29483



MARK E. BLANCHARD  
PRESIDENT & CEO

\*\*\* Celebrating over 125 years in business \*\*\*

October 10, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

As a company engaged in international shipping, we are well aware of the investments in bigger ships to more efficiently move cargo around the globe. To realize the benefits of big ships, it is critical that they can move at a draft of 48 feet without tidal restrictions. That requires a channel depth of 52 feet.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, as well as the future of U.S. distribution and manufacturing. While it is essential for ocean carriers, who need to call on modern ports capable of handling larger ships with deeper drafts, it is also important to me and my company.

In addition, South Carolina's Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated broad support for harbor deepening. This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of funding for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that South Carolina, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening. They understand what the international shipping community knows: this project is critical to moving cargo around the world.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds that the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward so that Charleston remains a top 10 United States container port.

The Corps and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Blanchard

3411 JOURDAN ROAD  
NEW ORLEANS,  
LOUISIANA 70126

PHONE: (504) 944-4400  
(800) 782-2653  
FAX: (504) 944-1034

*Accountability: It's what we offer, it's what we do ... IT IS NOCS*





**MAERSK  
LINE**

180 PARK AVENUE  
FLORHAM PARK, NEW JERSEY 07932

**MICHAEL J. WHITE**  
PRESIDENT  
NORTH AMERICA

October 8, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

As an ocean carrier, we have invested heavily in building bigger ships to move cargo in the global marketplace in a more efficient manner. It is critical that we are able to move these ships drafting 48 feet without tidal restriction through the Charleston Harbor channel. These ships need 52 feet of depth to accomplish this task.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening. It is also essential for ocean carriers who need to call on modern ports capable of handling larger ships with deeper drafts.

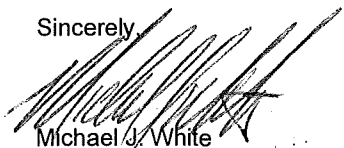
This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that South Carolina, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening. They understand what carriers know: this project is critical to accommodate cargo movement in the global marketplace.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

  
Michael J. White  
President  
North America



**MAERSK  
LINE**

180 PARK AVENUE  
FLORHAM PARK, NEW JERSEY 07932

**MICHAEL J. WHITE**  
PRESIDENT  
NORTH AMERICA

October 8, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

As an ocean carrier, we have invested heavily in building bigger ships to move cargo in the global marketplace in a more efficient manner. It is critical that we are able to move these ships drafting 48 feet without tidal restriction through the Charleston Harbor channel. These ships need 52 feet of depth to accomplish this task.

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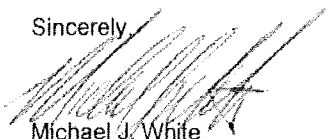
This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that South Carolina, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening. They understand what carriers know: this project is critical to accommodate cargo movement in the global marketplace.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward so that the Port of Charleston can remain a top 10 United States container port in the modern era.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Michael J. White  
President  
North America



November 17, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

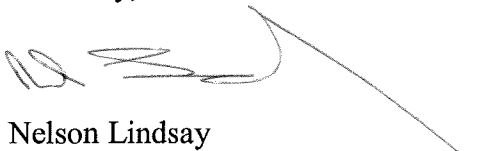
As a member of South Carolina's economic development community, I am writing in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project. For over 300 years, the Charleston Harbor has been a key factor in the economic viability of South Carolina, and I firmly believe that this project is essential to our state's economic future.

With Charleston being the fourth busiest East Coast port for container traffic and supporting more than 260,000 jobs in South Carolina, there is no question that the viability of Charleston's shipping channels is critical to the state. In Richland County, many of our existing industries rely heavily on the Port and the Charleston Harbor for their success.

I have no doubt the USACE's Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement is based on objective science and economics. In addition to being critical to the economic health of the state, the deepening project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Failure to proceed to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and could negatively impact our existing industries that rely heavily on the Port. I respectfully request that you authorize the deepening of Charleston Harbor to 52 feet.

Sincerely,



Nelson Lindsay  
Director of Economic Development



11/21/2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Ms. Erin Owen  
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section  
SCDHEC- Bureau of Water  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

**Re: Harbor Deepening Support**

Dear Mr. Messersmith and Ms. Owen:

I write to support the proposed 52-foot deepening project of the Charleston Harbor as recommended by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in their Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement.

In the increasingly competitive global trade environment in which we operate today, moving forward with this project (and on a timely basis) is absolutely critical, to not only South Carolina's economic future, but the entire region and nation as well. Nearly every long-term forecast of the U.S. economy projects the Southeastern region of the country to be the fastest growing area for decades to come. As a result, it is essential that The Port of Charleston have the ability to handle fully loaded post-Panamax vessels 24 hours a day, without tidal restrictions.

In an unprecedented display of bipartisan support of this project, every layer of government in South Carolina, from the local level to our Congressional delegation, has embraced this project. Nothing demonstrates this commitment more than the actions of the General Assembly, when they set aside the state's share of the construction cost.

However, perhaps the most compelling argument to proceed with deepening Charleston Harbor to 52 feet comes from two findings of the exhaustive abovementioned study of the US Army Corps itself: When compared with deepening two other major Southeastern Ports, deepening the Port of Charleston will *save* an average of \$150 million, while at the same time *gain* an extra five feet of depth, with the *least* amount of impact to the environment.

I would respectfully submit that is the very definition of a "no-brainer" and request that you approve this project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mikell". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mikell C. Thaxton  
President, Port City Warehouse Co.



843.202.7600  
Fax 843.202.7601  
jneal@charlestoncounty.org  
Lonnie Hamilton, III  
Public Services Building  
4045 Bridge View Drive, Suite A301  
North Charleston, SC 29405-7464

James R. Neal  
Director

**Public Works Department**

November 20, 2014

Mr. Bret L. Walters, Chief  
Planning and Environmental Branch  
Department of the Army  
Charleston District, Corps of Engineers  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403-5107

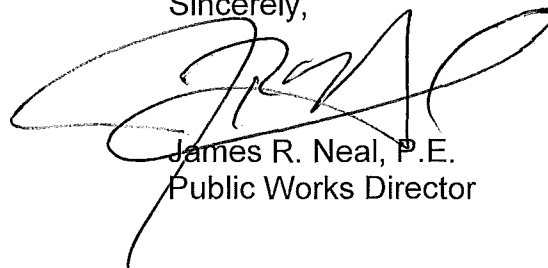
RE: DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

Dear Mr. Walters:

We are in receipt of the Executive Summary of the "*Charleston Harbor Post 45 Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement*" along with the disc containing the entire Feasibility Report and EIS, dated October 2014. We reviewed the Executive Summary and the attached Table 1 containing the Federal and Non-Federal Costs.

We commend the District with the thoroughness of its investigation in support of the recommendation to improve the navigational quality within the Charleston Harbor. The Charleston County Public Works Department supports the proposed project and stands ready to supply information from its files and records in further support of the District's project.

Sincerely,



James R. Neal, P.E.  
Public Works Director

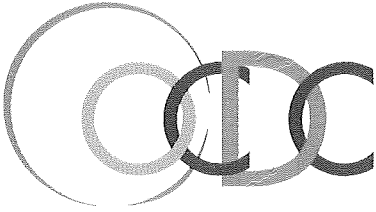
JRN:bw

c: Jim Armstrong, DCA of Transportation & Public Works  
Frank Pandullo, P.E., Stormwater Utility Manager



American Public Works Association

[www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org)



Kenneth E. Middleton, Chairman  
Terry W. Cook, Vice Chairman  
Gail R. Fogle, Secretary/Treasurer  
George R. Dean, Executive Committee  
John A. Cunningham  
The Honorable William R. Johnson  
Robert, F. McCurry, Jr.  
Hazel L. Middleton, Sr.  
Reverend Harry V. Nesmith  
Kenneth S. Ott  
James W. Roquemore  
Dr. Walt A. Tobin  
M. Craig Williams  
Joey A. Williamson

November 10, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

C. Gregory Robinson, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

My letter today is written in support of the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project has been on the radar for the State of South Carolina for some time, and it is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future. Our harbor must be able to accommodate the post-Panama shipping vessels lanes.

We are extremely pleased that our General Assembly took action to set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project, and I might add—the only state to do so. This action shows that our state, known for its strong political climate, has come together to support the harbor deepening.

As the Executive Director of the Orangeburg County Development Commission, the use of the Port of Charleston is critical to future Economic Development projects that are considering Orangeburg County to locate their facility here. The Port is a very important asset to reach markets around the world which is vital to **South Carolina's Global Logistics Triangle (I-26 • US301 • & I-95)**.

It is my hope that this project go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate the Panamax vessels will impact our statewide efforts to create additional jobs and improve the quality of life for each and every citizen.

I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely I am,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gregory Robinson', is written over a white background.

C. Gregory Robinson  
Executive Director

CGR/tb



125 Regional Parkway, Suite 100 • Orangeburg, SC 29118  
voice: 803.536.3333 • fax: 803.534.1165  
toll free: 1.888.761.OCDC (6232)  
[www.ocdc.com](http://www.ocdc.com)



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

As a part of the business community in Charleston, I urge the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to move forward with the proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

In addition to the 500 SCPA employees who depend on the port for their livelihood, this project is also important to 260,800 people across South Carolina whose jobs are created because of port operations.

The SCPA terminal productivity is the best in the nation, but to truly be competitive in our region we also must have the ability to serve post-Panamax ships without tidal restriction.

The Governor, General Assembly and leaders across our state have shown their support for this effort. This project is not just important to Charleston. Companies in every county of South Carolina depend on our port to import materials and goods for their business and export their finished products to customers across the globe.

I have confidence in the USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request your support as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Trouche", written in a cursive style.

Thomas G. Trouche

**Thomas G. Trouche**

**Executive Vice President | Division Executive**

152 East Bay Street • Charleston, SC 29401 | 843-577-8502 • fax 843-329-1945





**Norfolk Southern Corporation**  
Three Commercial Place  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-9251  
Telephone: 757/629-2748  
FAX: 757/629-2849  
[robert.martinez@nscorp.com](mailto:robert.martinez@nscorp.com)

**Robert E. Martinez**  
Vice President  
Business Development

November 12, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

My company, Norfolk Southern Corporation, is already on record in support of the Charleston Harbor Post-45 Project. I herewith reiterate our support for the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

We have full confidence in the Corps' analysis, which argues that the Project can be realized in an environmentally sensitive manner. With that confidence, we recognize the key role the 52-foot deepening plays in the economic well-being not only of the Port of Charleston and of South Carolina but, indeed, for the southeast United States.

Thank you for your consideration of this statement of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robt Martinez', with a stylized flourish at the end.



November 11, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

As a SC State Ports Authority supporter, I urge the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to move forward with the proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

There are 500 SCPA employees who depend on the port for their livelihood, and this project is also important to 260,800 people across South Carolina whose jobs are created because of port operations.

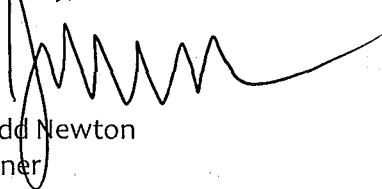
The SCSPA terminal productivity is the best in the nation, but to truly be competitive in our region they also must have the ability to serve post-Panamax ships without tidal restriction.

The Governor, General Assembly and leaders across our state have shown their support for this effort because this project is not just important to Charleston. Companies in every county of South Carolina depend on the port to import materials and goods for their business and export their finished products to customers across the globe.

I have confidence in the USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Tradd Newton  
Owner





November 11, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

As a SC State Ports Authority supporter, I urge the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to move forward with the proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

There are 500 SCPA employees who depend on the port for their livelihood, and this project is also important to 260,800 people across South Carolina whose jobs are created because of port operations.

The SCSPA terminal productivity is the best in the nation, but to truly be competitive in our region they also must have the ability to serve post-Panamax ships without tidal restriction.

The Governor, General Assembly and leaders across our state have shown their support for this effort because this project is not just important to Charleston. Companies in every county of South Carolina depend on the port to import materials and goods for their business and export their finished products to customers across the globe.

I have confidence in the USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Louise Newton  
Owner



November 19, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

As the Dean of the College of Charleston School of Business, I urge the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to move forward with the proposed 52-foot harbor-deepening project.

The Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement clearly outline the economic impact of this important project. Today, the College of Charleston has 2,000 business students enrolled in our academic programs, including our newest supply chain management major and our long-standing global logistics and transportation minor. Many of our students graduate and become employed in the region in these fields mainly due to the economic engine of the State Ports Authority. As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers considers moving forward with deepening our harbor, please consider the fact that many of our graduates are dependent on a strong, competitively positioned Port for the livelihoods and careers.

In addition, SC Secretary of Commerce, Bobby Hitt, recently announced his plans to locate the South Carolina Supply Chain Research Center in our School of Business. The Research Center and our faculty will engage with industry partners, including the Port and its customers, in much needed applied research to benefit our state and the companies located here. As the Port volume increases and our region becomes even more compelling for companies to expand, the need for relevant, applied research will become even greater.

I have confidence in the USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner.

The USACE has the support of the College of Charleston School of Business to approve this project. I respectfully request that you continue to move forward.

Sincerely,



Alan T. Shao, Dean  
School of Business  
College of Charleston

COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON  
FOUNDED 1770

Glenn F. McConnell  
President

66 George St.  
Charleston, SC 29424  
843.953.5500  
mcconnellgf@cofc.edu

November 20, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project – the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Glenn F. McConnell '69". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Glenn F. McConnell '69

cc: Mr. James I. Newsome, III, President and CEO, South Carolina Ports Authority

# BMW Plant Spartanburg



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue

Charleston, SC 29403

13 November 2014

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project. This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

Over the last several years, BMW Manufacturing has exported 70% of all vehicles produced in South Carolina, reaching over 140 global markets. In 2013, this amounted to over 200,000 vehicles being handled through the Port of Charleston. Earlier this year, we announced an additional \$1 Billion investment in our Spartanburg, SC plant and a plan to increase volume to 450,000 in the next two years. Another major component of our operations -which is greatly dependent on the Port-, is the container traffic coming to the plant. BMW currently imports on average 1,100 containers (2200 TEU's - 20' equivalent units) per month which include parts not produced in South Carolina for our models. You can easily understand that, if our volume is increasing, so will our logistics demand for inbound TEU's and exports. The addition of the South Carolina Inland Port has been very beneficial for business operations in our region for the state. A deepened harbor channel is the best compliment possible to a world-class logistics system in South Carolina.

It is critical that the harbor depth be deepened to accommodate the larger vessels, which in turn can lend security to the 30,000 jobs in South Carolina tied directly to our operations. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Your favorable consideration for the project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Manfred Erlacher".

Manfred Erlacher

President & CEO

Company  
BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC  
BMW Group Company

Mailing address  
PO Box 11000  
Spartanburg, SC  
29304-4100

Office address  
1400 Highway 101 South  
Greer, SC 29651

Telephone  
864- 989-6000

Internet  
[www.bmwusfactory.com](http://www.bmwusfactory.com)



Commercial Real Estate Services, Worldwide.

tel 864 232 9040  
fax 864 235 4300  
www.naiearlefurman.com

101 E. Washington St.  
Suite 400  
Greenville SC 29601

November 18, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Jonathan A. Good, Chief Executive Officer  
NAI Earle Furman

Individual Member of







Commercial Real Estate Services, Worldwide.

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fax 864 235 4300  
www.naiearlefurman.com

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Suite 400  
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

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USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Hal Johnson, Chief Development Officer  
NAI Earle Furman

Individual Member of





Commercial Real Estate Services, Worldwide.

tel 864 232 9040  
fax 864 235 4300  
www.naiearlefurman.com

101 E. Washington St.  
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Greenville SC 29601

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

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This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

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USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Earle J. Furman, Chairman  
NAI Earle Furman

Individual Member of



# **NAI** Earle Furman, LLC

Commercial Real Estate Services, Worldwide.

tel 864 232 9040  
fax 864 235 4300  
www.naiearlefurman.com

101 E. Washington St.  
Suite 400  
Greenville SC 29601

November 14, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project. This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

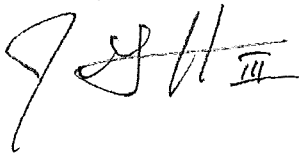
This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project- the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds that the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide; it is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



J. Grice Hunt

JGH/wec

Individual Member of





South Carolina  
Department of Transportation

Secretary of Transportation  
Janet P. Oakley  
(803) 737-1312 Fax (803) 737-2038

November 18, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

As Secretary of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate larger post-Panamax vessels at all times would impact our collective statewide and regional efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. Our recently completed Statewide Freight Plan forecasts freight tonnage across South Carolina's multimodal network to increase 81% by 2040, with the value increasing 117% to \$1.3 trillion, indicative of the vital role this project plays in sustaining South Carolina's economic future. Ninety-one (91) major metropolitan areas are within 500 miles of the Port of Charleston, in a region where population is projected to increase 46% from 2000 to 2030. Ninety-four (94) million consumers live within a single-day's truck trip from South Carolina Ports Authority facilities. Efficient and enhanced goods movement resulting from this project is therefore critical not only to the economic health of South Carolina, but the entire Southeast region.

Recognition of the significant importance that harbor deepening plays in this effort is demonstrated by the widespread, statewide support garnered for this project. SCDOT has developed a true partnership with the South Carolina Ports Authority and the South Carolina Department of Commerce, and this increased collaboration on transportation infrastructure investment will better align our goals and performance of the freight transportation system as a whole.

Assured by the findings of the USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, the USACE and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of SCDOT to approve this project, and I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



Janet P. Oakley  
Secretary of Transportation

JPO:mbw

cc: Mark Lester, Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning  
Wendy Nicholas, Chief of Staff

File: OPT/DWF





South Carolina  
Department of Transportation

W. B. Cook, Chairman  
SCDOT Commission  
Post Office Box 191  
Columbia, SC 29202

November 12, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

RE: Proposed 52-foot Harbor Deepening Project – Charleston County

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

Goods movement is critical to the economic health of a state, particularly in one such as South Carolina that has access to major ocean ports, international and regional airports, inland ports, rail lines and multiple Interstate highways. The relatively recent transformation of the state's economy has increased the need for an efficient and competitive multimodal freight transportation system, and South Carolina's ability to respond quickly to the changing environment has enabled the state to become a major advanced-manufacturing, distribution and logistics center in the Southeast.

As Chairman of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Commission, I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project. This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future, and the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening. This widespread support for this project resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that South Carolina has come together in a unique, tangible and non-partisan manner to support harbor deepening.

Further demonstrating the manner in which our state has come together in a mutually-beneficial manner essential to sustaining our economic health, SCDOT, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Commerce and South Carolina Ports Authority, developed the South Carolina Multimodal Transportation Plan that includes for the first time a comprehensive, performance-based Statewide Freight Plan. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.



Mr. Mark Messersmith  
November 12, 2014  
Page Two

I have every confidence in the USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, which finds that the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. The USACE and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of the SCDOT Commission to approve this project, and I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,



W. B. Cook, Chairman  
SCDOT Commission

WBC:mbw  
ec: SCDOT Commissioners  
Janet P. Oakley, Secretary of Transportation  
Wendy Nicholas, Chief of Staff  
Tesa Griffin, Commission Special Assistant

File: OPT/DWF

