



April 21, 2022

Jon Nass, CEO and Executive Director  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, MS 39501

Re: Port of Gulfport – Federal Navigation Channel Deepening and Widening Project

Dear Mr. Nass,

On behalf of Ports America, the largest marine terminal operator and stevedore in the United States, I am writing to express our strong support and the critical need to deepen and widen the Federal Navigation Channel into the Port of Gulfport.

The international shipping industry has significantly evolved since the expansion of the Panama Canal and the introduction of larger container vessels. With a channel depth of 36 feet, the Port of Gulfport continues to be at a significant disadvantage in attracting new business among US gateway ports throughout the Gulf Coast.

Ports America has been operating in Gulfport for over 45 years. We have developed long-term relationships with the Port's current customers and are pursuing ways to attract new customers in coordination with the Port of Gulfport. However, the current draft restrictions limit the size of the ships calling on Gulfport. The dredging and widening of the shipping channel, coupled with investment in the development of additional terminal capacity, will enable Gulfport to compete with neighboring ports to attract the larger ships calling the Gulf.

For all the reasons above, Ports America strongly supports a project to deepen and widen the channel at the Port of Gulfport.

Sincerely,

Mark Montgomery  
Ports America, Chief Executive Officer



April 21, 2022

Jon Nass, CEO and Executive Director  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, MS 39501

Re: Port of Gulfport Deepening and Widening

SSA Marine is an American stevedoring company and Terminal Operator that operates in 260 locations around the globe. One of the locations SSA Marine operates is the Port of Gulfport in Mississippi. SSA Marine is very much in support of deepening and widening the Federal Navigation Channel that leads to the Port of Gulfport.

A deeper and wider channel would benefit SSA Marine by allowing larger ships to call the Port of Gulfport. It would also attract new shipping lines that do not currently call the Port of Gulfport due to the limited depth. More vessels and larger vessels would lead to a drastic increase in the need for stevedoring services which would have a direct impact on SSA Marine and the labor force in Gulfport. A deeper channel would also attract more investment from business that currently utilize the port and private interests that would utilize the port if it had a deeper channel.

All of these factors would lead to an improved economy on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in the State of Mississippi. For these reasons, SSA Marine supports a project to deepen and widen the channel.

Sincerely,

Pat Downey

SSA Gulf, Inc- Regional VP



April 21, 2022

Jon Nass, CEO and Executive Director  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, MS 39501

Re: Port of Gulfport Deepening and Widening  
To Whom it May Concern:

Dole is a multinational business that is the largest producer of fruit and vegetable in the world. Dole runs weekly vessels in and out of the Port of Gulfport. Dole has been utilizing the Port of Gulfport to import and export goods for the last 57 years and are proud partners of the Port.

Recent changes in the shipping industry and the expansion of the Panama Canal have led to the utilization of larger, deeper draft container vessels. In fact, just this past year Dole introduced two new vessels to its fleet that call the Port of Gulfport – the Dole Aztec and the Dole Maya. These new vessels are larger than the previous Dole vessels that sailed to Gulfport and have the capacity to carry substantially more cargo. However, Dole is limited to how much cargo it can send in and out of Gulfport because of the limited depth of the Federal Navigation Channel. Currently we are unable to use our vessels to full capacity.

Dole is a big supporter of deepening and widening the Channel to Gulfport. As one of, if not the most, efficient ports we utilize in the world, we would very much welcome the opportunity to do more business in Gulfport. A deeper channel would be more efficient for business such as Dole and it would greatly benefit the economy of Mississippi by leading to more cargo, more jobs and more money for the people of Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Kelby W Cuevas  
*Terminal Manager*  
*Dole Fresh Fruit Company*





The Chemours Company FC, LLC  
Titanium Technologies - DeLisle Plant  
7685 Kiln DeLisle Road  
P.O. Box 430  
Pass Christian, MS 39571

April 21, 2022

Jon Nass, CEO and Executive Director  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, MS 39501

Re: Port of Gulfport Deepening and Widening

The Chemours Company is an American chemical company that was previously associated with DuPont. Chemours operates all over the globe but has a plant located in DeLisle, Mississippi and utilizes the Port of Gulfport to import ore product. Chemours has been operating at the Port of Gulfport since 1979.

The ore that Chemours imports into the Port of Gulfport comes from all over the world and is carried by vessels of all shapes and sizes. Ore is a very heavy product that causes vessels to draft deeply when fully loaded. Currently, Chemours is limited in how much product it can bring to the Port of Gulfport because of the limited depth of the Federal Navigational Channel leading into the Port. On occasion, vessels carrying ore offload some of the product prior to going to Gulfport to lighten its load and reduce draft. Similarly, vessels will sometimes offload product onto barges to be carried into Gulfport because the vessel cannot enter the Port due to lack of depth.

A deeper channel would greatly benefit Chemours and Chemours is a proponent of the idea. It would increase efficiency by allowing larger vessels to enter the port, which would reduce costs and increase the speed in which the product gets to Gulfport and DeLisle. A deeper channel would also allow for the full utilization of the silos and infrastructure that were built on the Port after Hurricane Katrina. Chemours fully supports a project to deepen and widen the channel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Duane Wilson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Duane' being more prominent than the last name 'Wilson'.

DeLisle Site Engineering Manager  
Liaison to Port of Gulfport



## Mississippi State Senate

SENATOR JOEL R. CARTER, JR.

**LOCAL ADDRESS**

Post Office Box 1300  
Gulfport, Mississippi 39502  
Office: 228-731-3881  
jrcarter@senate.ms.gov

District 49  
Serving Hancock County

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Energy, Chair  
Corrections  
Drug Policy  
Finance  
Highways and Transportation  
Investigate State Offices  
Labor  
Tourism

April 26, 2022

Jon Nass, CEO and Executive Director  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Re: Port of Gulfport Deepening and Widening

To Whom it May Concern:

As the Mississippi State Senator for District 49, I support the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport's efforts to deepen and widen the Federal Navigation Channel into the Port of Gulfport. This is a project that would benefit the community of Gulfport, the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the state as a whole.

Following Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Government invested nearly \$570 Million into the Port of Gulfport to replace and expand the infrastructure with the hopes of developing the economy in Gulfport. However, the channel depth at the port has had a severe limiting effect on which ships can enter the port and therefore limited the ability of the port and its partners to attract business and fully utilize the port. Even during the recent supply chain challenges, the Port of Gulfport remained under-utilized because the ships that were back logged at other ports couldn't enter the Port of Gulfport.

The Port of Gulfport has long been an important piece of the economic puzzle to the city of Gulfport and the State of Mississippi. Deepening and widening the channel would allow the Port to remain competitive with other ports, attract new business and larger ships and fully realize the federal investment that was made. Additionally, a deeper channel has the potential to open up new trade lanes that currently do not exist for Mississippi exporters. A fully utilized port would increase jobs and revenue to the State of Mississippi which would have a positive impact on the economy.

For all of the reasons stated above, I am in support of the Port's efforts to deepen and widen the channel.

Sincerely,

Joel R. Carter, Jr.





**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Technology, Chairman  
Veterans and Military Affairs, Vice-Chairman  
Appropriations  
Education  
Environment Prot, Cons and Water Res  
Gaming  
Highways and Transportation  
Insurance  
Ports and Marine Resources

Post Office Box 4524  
Biloxi, MS 39535  
Phone: 228.276.2730  
sdelano@senate.ms.gov

## Mississippi State Senate

**SENATOR SCOTT DELANO**

**District 50  
Harrison County**

April 21, 2022

The Honorable Steve Palazzo  
House of Representatives  
2349 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Port of Gulfport Deepening and Widening

To Whom it May Concern:

As the Mississippi State Senator for District 50, I fully support the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport's efforts to deepen and widen the Federal Navigation Channel into the Port of Gulfport. This is a project that would benefit the community of Gulfport, the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the state as a whole.

Following Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Government invested \$570 Million into the Port of Gulfport to replace and expand the infrastructure with the hopes of developing the economy in Gulfport. However, the channel depth at the port has had a severe limiting effect on which ships can enter the port and therefore limited the ability of the port and its partners to attract business and fully utilize the port. Even during the recent supply chain challenges, the Port of Gulfport remained under utilized because the ships that were back logged at other ports couldn't enter the Port of Gulfport.

The Port of Gulfport has long been an important piece of the economic puzzle to the city of Gulfport and the State of Mississippi. Deepening and widening the channel would allow the Port to remain competitive with other ports, attract new business and larger ships and fully realize the federal investment that was made. Additionally, a deeper channel has the potential to open up new trade lanes that currently do not exist for Mississippi exporters. A fully utilized port would increase jobs and revenue to the State of Mississippi which would have a positive impact on the economy.

For all of the reasons stated above, I am in support the Port's efforts to deepen and widen the channel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott DeLano", with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the page.

Senator Scott DeLano



**Mississippi State Senate**  
**SENATOR MIKE THOMPSON**

District 48  
Harrison County

April 21, 2022

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Investigate State Offices, Chairman  
Ports and Marine Resources,  
Vice-Chairman  
Constitution  
Environment Protection, Conservation  
& Water Resources  
Finance  
Gaming  
Highways & Transportation  
Judiciary, Division B  
Tourism

New Capitol  
Post Office Box 1018  
Jackson, MS 39215-1018  
Office: 601.359.2220

Post Office Box 280  
Gulfport, MS 39502  
mthompson@senate.ms.gov

Jon Nass, CEO and Executive Director  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, MS 39501

Re: Port of Gulfport Deepening and Widening

To Whom it May Concern:

I serve as the Mississippi State Senator representing District 48, I fully support the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport's efforts to deepen and widen the Federal Navigation Channel into the Port of Gulfport. This is a project that would benefit the community of Gulfport, the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the state as a whole.

After Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Government invested \$570 Million into the Port of Gulfport to replace and expand the infrastructure with the hopes of developing the economy in Gulfport. However, the channel depth at the port has had a severe limiting effect on which ships can enter the port and therefore limited the ability of the port and its partners to attract business and fully utilize the port. Even during the recent supply chain challenges, the Port of Gulfport remained under utilized because the ships that were back logged at other ports could not enter the Port of Gulfport.

The Port of Gulfport has long been an important piece of the economic puzzle to the city of Gulfport and the State of Mississippi. Deepening and widening the channel would allow the Port to remain competitive with other ports, attract new business and larger ships and fully realize the federal investment that was made. Also, a deeper channel has the potential to open up new trade lanes that currently do not exist for Mississippi exporters. A fully utilized port would increase jobs and revenue to the State of Mississippi which would have a positive impact on the economy.

As detailed in the preceding information, I am in support of the Port's efforts to deepen and widen the channel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Mike Thompson".

Senator Mike Thompson





# State of Mississippi

**TATE REEVES**  
Governor

## MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

April 20, 2022

Jon Nass, CEO and Executive Director  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, MS 39501

Re: Port of Gulfport Deepening and Widening

The goal of the Mississippi Development Authority (“MDA”), the state’s lead economic development agency, is to strengthen Mississippi’s communities through economic and community development. We realize the development of our state’s transportation network, which includes our deep-water ports, is paramount to companies that are seeking locations to invest and create new jobs for Mississippi’s citizens.

MDA’s partnership with the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport remains steadfast as we work toward our common goals of business recruitment and expansion and workforce development. The Port of Gulfport plays an increasingly significant role in helping its commercial partners successfully reach national and international markets in a timely manner. Therefore, the Port of Gulfport must be prepared to meet the future shipping needs of companies, which will positively impact the Port’s future economic growth by generating new jobs and investment while creating more vibrant communities in Gulfport, Harrison County and all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

MDA is proud to support the deepening and widening of the Federal Navigation Channel to allow for larger vessels so the Port of Gulfport remains competitive for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Hipp".

Laura Hipp  
Deputy Executive Director





**HARRISON COUNTY**  
Development Commission

April 20, 2022

Jon Nass, CEO and Executive Director  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, MS 39501

Dear Jon,

The Harrison County Development Commission ("HCDC") is the economic development agency for Harrison County, Mississippi. Our motto is *A Beautifully Productive Home for Business* and as such, we wholeheartedly support those endeavors that strengthen our economy, grow our communities and add to an outstanding quality of coastal life. For these reasons, we endorse deepening and widening the Federal Navigation Channel to allow for larger vessels to enter the Port of Gulfport.

HCDC's collaboration with the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport ("MSPA") has been unwavering in the business recruitment/retention and workforce development arenas. It is essential that the MSPA strive to meet future commercial shipping needs because the success of the Port ultimately impacts economic growth by enhancing infrastructure, creating jobs, increasing revenues and advancing quality of life not only for Gulfport and Harrison County, but for the entire State of Mississippi.

In closing, on behalf of the Harrison County Development Commission, we unequivocally support the deepening and widening of the Federal Navigation Channel into the Port of Gulfport as it is essential to additional economic development.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Lavers'.

Bill Lavers, Executive Director



OFFICE OF MAYOR

P.O. Box 1780  
Gulfport, MS 39502  
Phone: 228-868-5700  
Fax: 228-868-5800

City Hall  
2309 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
Gulfport, MS 39501

April 22, 2022

Jon Nass, CEO and Executive Director  
Mississippi State Port Authority  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450  
Gulfport, MS 39501

Re: Port of Gulfport Deepening and Widening

The City of Gulfport is proud to serve as home base for the Mississippi State Port Authority. Our city was founded on the premise that the Port of Gulfport would be the center of trade and enterprise and would connect the coastal region to the world by its ability to export lumber products from the state's beautiful yellow pine. As the years passed, the Port's proximity to Central America led to the importation of huge quantities of bananas making it a serious competitor in the Gulf of Mexico. The Port of Gulfport now serves as the second largest importer of green fruit in our nation. For these reasons, we endorse deepening and widening the Federal Navigation Channel to allow for larger vessels to enter the Port of Gulfport.

The City's collaboration with the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport ("MSPA") has been unwavering in the business recruitment/retention and workforce development arenas. It is essential that the MSPA strive to meet future commercial shipping needs because the success of the Port ultimately influences economic growth by enhancing infrastructure, creating jobs, increasing revenues and advancing quality of life not only for Gulfport and Harrison County, but for the entire State of Mississippi.

In closing, on behalf of the city, we fully support the deepening and widening of the Federal Navigation Channel into the Port of Gulfport as it is essential to additional economic development for our city and our state.

Best Regards,

  
Billy Hewes  
Mayor