

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 20, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

We write to express our full support for the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot Charleston Harbor Deepening Project.

This project is essential to South Carolina's economic future, and as members of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation, we join with the Governor, the State Legislature, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for the proposed 52 feet harbor deepening project. In 2013, the South Carolina General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project, becoming the only state to do so. On the federal side, we continue to work in securing the necessary federal funds to keep this project moving in the most expeditious manner possible.

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-responsible manner. We strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as outlined by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

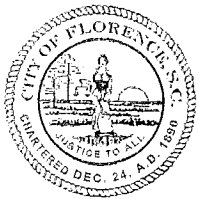
Ultimately, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state and the region. The Charleston port is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide and it is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to 52 feet in order to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would adversely impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

The future of shipping is 52 feet, which is why we feel it so important to go on record as a delegation expressing our unequivocal support. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to our continued partnership with the Corps of Engineers so that we may accomplish the best project for the nation's economy and our environment. If we can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

CITY OF  
FLORENCE

• S C •



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY - COUNTY COMPLEX AA  
180 N. IRBY STREET  
FLORENCE, SC  
29501-3456  
TEL: (843) 665-3151  
FAX: (843) 665-3110

November 18, 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. The Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

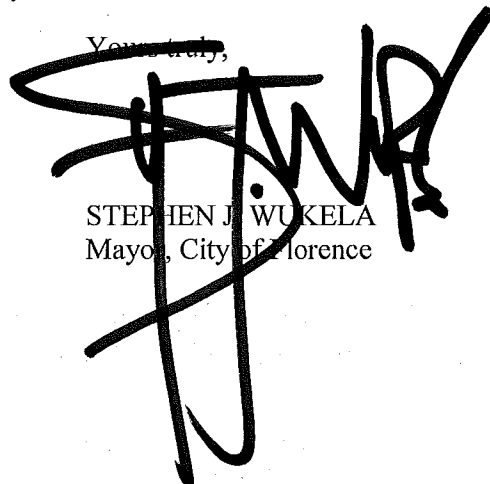
This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project — the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique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

Yours truly,



STEPHEN J. WUKELA  
Mayor, City of Florence

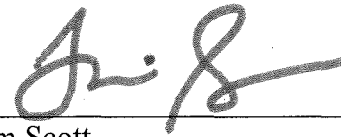
SJW:jpb

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA  
South Carolina Ports Authority  
176 Concord Street  
Charleston SC 29401

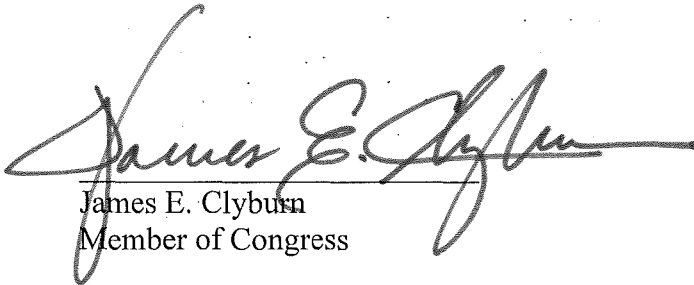
A CITY OF  
CHARACTER



Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



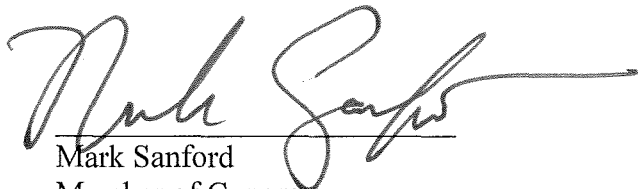
Tim Scott  
United States Senator



James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress



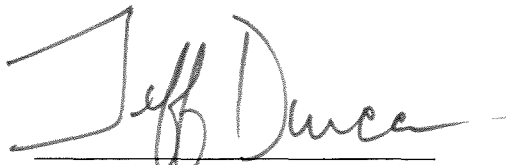
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford  
Member of Congress



Trey Gowdy  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Mick Mulvaney  
Member of Congress



Tom Rice  
Member of Congress



## South Carolina House Democratic Caucus

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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 "Todd Rutherford". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Todd Rutherford



## State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET  
COLUMBIA 29201

October 9, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith,

I am writing 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 our economic future and has statewide support from the South Carolina Legislature, business groups, and other stakeholders.

I have confidence in the USACE's Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. We would urge the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the costs can be fully shared between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor. In 2013, South Carolina set aside the state's full share of the estimated funds needed for the project – the only state to do so. This action illustrates that our state has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

Simply put, this project is important for the long-term economic well-being of our state. Our port system is a key factor in South Carolina's tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. In fact, the port system is tied to one of every eleven jobs statewide. Our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens depend on deepening the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock.

USACE and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control have the full support of South Carolina to approve this project, and I would greatly appreciate your favorable consideration of this request. God bless.

My very best,

  
Nikki R. Haley

NRH/as

Date 10/29/14

**RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

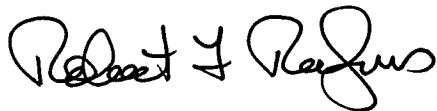
As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

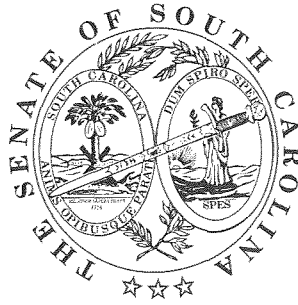
USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT L. RIDGEWAY III  
S.C. House District 64

CREIGHTON B. COLEMAN  
SENATOR, CHESTER, FAIRFIELD,  
AND YORK COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 17

COMMITTEES:  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY  
JUDICIARY  
TRANSPORTATION  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY



COLUMBIA SENATE OFFICE:  
504 GRESSETTE SENATE BUILDING  
POST OFFICE BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
TEL: (803) 212-6032  
FAX: (803) 212-6299  
CREIGHTONCOLEMAN@SCSENATE.GOV

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
120 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 1006  
WINNSBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA 29180

November 3, 2014

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

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to fifty-two (52) feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every eleven (11) jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

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

Yours very truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Coleman", is written over the typed name.

Senator Creighton B. Coleman, Dist. 17

CBC/pe

**JOE DANING**  
District No. 92  
Berkeley County



**Home**  
118 Queensbury Circle  
Goose Creek, SC 29445  
Tel. (843) 553-9288

**Committees:**  
Education and Public Works  
Transportation and Roadways  
Subcommittee, Chair  
Rules

**Columbia**  
310-B Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Tel. (803) 734-2951  
JoeDaning@schouse.gov

## The House of Representatives

P.O. BOX 11867  
Columbia 29211

October 15, 2014

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

### **RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. S. Daning".

Joseph S. Daning





## South Carolina House of Representatives

P. O. BOX 11867

Columbia 29211

CHRISMURPHY@SCHOUSE.GOV

CHRISTOPHER J. MURPHY  
REPRESENTATIVE

310A BLATT BUILDING  
COLUMBIA, SC 29201  
(803) 212-6925

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

DISTRICT 98  
DORCHESTER COUNTY

LOCAL OFFICE  
136 WEST RICHARDSON AVENUE  
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483  
(843) 832-1120

October 31, 2014

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

### RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Thank you for the job that you do for the State of South Carolina and its citizens. Please do not hesitate to call me with questions.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher J. Murphy  
South Carolina House of Representatives  
District 98

CJM/paf



# House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

**Kirkman, Finlay, III**

District No. 75 - Richland County  
P. O. Box 11684  
Columbia, SC 29201

532-A Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211

Tel. (803) 212-6943

**Committee:**

Agriculture, Natural Resources  
and Environmental Affairs

November 4, 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 Feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which find the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990's. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post- Panamax vessels around the clock would impact statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

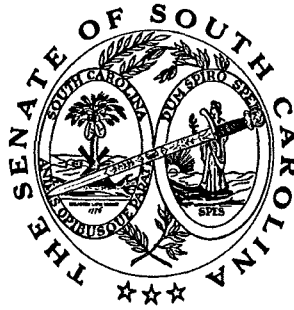
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirkman Finlay III".

Kirkman Finlay III

## Nikki G. Setzler

South Carolina Senate District 26  
Lexington, Aiken, Calhoun And Saluda Counties

510 Gressette Senate Office Building  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
Telephone: (803) 212-6140  
Fax: (803) 212-6299



Committees:  
Banking And Insurance  
Education  
Finance  
Labor, Commerce And Industry  
Interstate Cooperation

November 10, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990's. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nikki".

Nikki G. Setzler

KENT M. WILLIAMS  
SERVING MARION, DILLON, FLORENCE,  
MARLBORO AND HORRY COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 30



COLUMBIA ADDRESS:  
608 GRESSETTE SENATE BLDG  
POST OFFICE BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
TEL: (803) 212-6000  
FAX: (803) 212-6299  
EMAIL: KENTWILLIAMS@SCSENATE.GOV

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY  
FINANCE  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY  
LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

HOME ADDRESS:  
POST OFFICE BOX 1514  
MARION, SC 29571  
TELEPHONE: (843) 423-8237

October 20, 2014

**RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

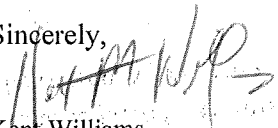
As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

  
Kent Williams  
SC Senate District 30  
Serving Marion, Dillon, Florence,  
Marlboro and Horry Counties

JOHN W. MATTHEWS  
SENATOR, ORANGEBURG, BERKELEY, CALHOUN,  
COLLETON, AND DORCHESTER COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 39

HOME ADDRESS:  
BOX 460  
BOWMAN, SC 29018  
(803) 829-2383  
(803) 829-2423



COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
BANKING AND INSURANCE  
EDUCATION  
ETHICS AND INVITATIONS  
FINANCE  
INTERSTATE COOPERATION

SENATE ADDRESS:  
SUITE 613  
GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
P. O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
(803) 212-6056  
FAX: (803) 212-6299  
EMAIL: JOHNMATTHEWS@SCSENATE.GOV  
FACEBOOK.COM/SENATORJOHNMATTHEWS

October 9, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Mark Messersmith:

As the longest serving African American Legislator in South Carolina, I fully support 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 that reads "John W. Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "M".

John W. Matthews

**Nikki G. Setzler**

South Carolina Senate District 26  
Lexington, Aiken, Calhoun and  
Saluda Counties

510 Gressette Senate Office Building  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
Telephone: (803) 212-6140  
Fax: (803) 212-6299



Committees:  
Banking and Insurance  
Education  
Finance  
Labor, Commerce and Industry  
Interstate Cooperation

**October 13, 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 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 that reads "Nikki G. Setzler".

**Nikki G. Setzler**

CHARLES B. BARNWELL, JR.  
BERNARD HAIRE  
CHARLES W. JERNIGAN  
L. ZIMMERMAN KEITT  
SANDRA P. KNOTTS  
RICHARD F. STROMAN  
COUNCIL MEMBERS



MICHAEL C. BUTLER  
MAYOR

October 22, 2014

*Orangeburg*

SOUTH CAROLINA

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 the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future. The Governor, the 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 and 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 eleven (11) jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990's. 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.

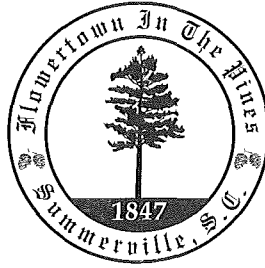
Cordially yours,

Michael C. Butler  
Mayor

c: Mr. James Newsome, III  
President/CEO, SCPA

979 Middleton Street  
P.O. Drawer 387  
Orangeburg, SC 29116-0387  
Office: (803) 533-6000  
Business: (803) 535-6030  
Fax: (803) 533-6007  
www.orangeburg.sc.us  
mbutler@orangeburg.sc.us

William C. Collins, Mayor  
*Council Members:*  
Terry Jenkins, Mayor Pro Tem  
Walter Bailey  
Aaron Brown  
Kima Garten-Schmidt  
Bob Jackson  
William McIntosh



*Town Clerk and Treasurer*  
Lisa L. Wallace  
*Town Attorney*  
G.W. Parker

## Town of Summerville

October 22, 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 U. S. 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 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.

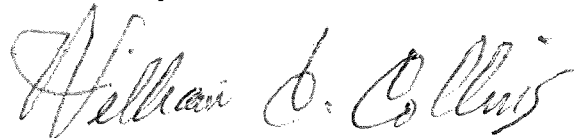
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Mr. Mark Messersmith  
October 20, 2014  
Page 2 of 2

USACE and S. C. 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 that reads "William C. Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

William C. Collins  
Mayor

WCC/b

xc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



MICHAEL J. HEITZLER, ED.D.  
Mayor

October 29, 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. 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,

Michael J. Heitzler, Ed.D.  
Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



MICHAEL J. HEITZLER, ED.D.  
Mayor

October 23, 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. 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.

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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,

Michael J. Heitzler, Ed.D.  
Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA

# CITY OF NEWBERRY

---

S O U T H C A R O L I N A

---

October 22, 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. The Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening.

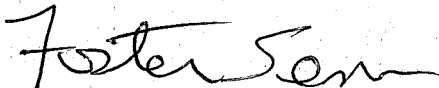
This support resulted in concrete action when the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project—the only state to do so. This action demonstrates that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique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



Foster Senn  
Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA

MAYOR  
Steve MacDougall

# TOWN OF LEXINGTON

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
D. Britt Poole

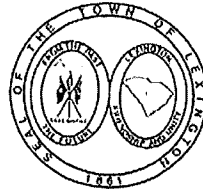
MAYOR PRO-TEM  
Hazel Livingston

MAILING ADDRESS  
Post Office Box 397  
Lexington, SC 29071

COUNCIL  
Kathy Maness  
Ted Stambolitis  
Todd Shevchik  
Todd Carnes  
Ron Williams

INFORMATION  
803-359-4164  
www.lexsc.com

FAX  
803-359-4460



October 22, 2014

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District  
68A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, S.C. 29403

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

Please accept this as my endorsement to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

The project is essential to South Carolina's economic future. I, along with Charleston's Mayor Riley, Governor Haley, the 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 which was the only State to do so.

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.

Even as a small town in the center of the State, the project will positively affect our economic growth for years to come. If I can be of assistance, or if you have any questions, please call me on my cell number 803-391-0896.

Sincerely,

Steve MacDougall  
Mayor  
Town of Lexington

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA

Scott F. Dadson  
CITY MANAGER  
843-525-7070  
FAX 843-525-7013



**CITY OF BEAUFORT**  
1911 Boundary Street  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29902

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Billy Keyserling, Mayor  
Donnie Beer  
George O'Kelley  
Mike Sutton  
Mike McFee

October 23, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I understand that Governor Haley, the SC General Assembly and business stakeholders throughout our state fully support deepening the Port in Charleston and I want to join them.

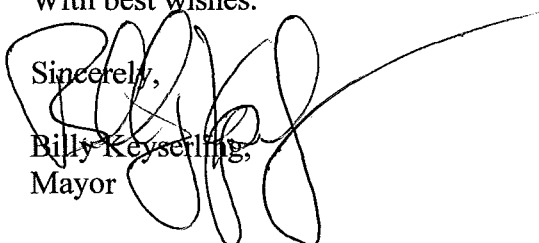
Accordingly, I am writing to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project as this is essential to our state and region's economic vitality and growth.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) assessment that 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 hope you are able to embrace this transformational endeavor.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Billy Keyserling,  
Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



Office of the Mayor

October 22, 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. 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,

Knox H. White, Mayor  
City of Greenville

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



October 20, 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.

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Danner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

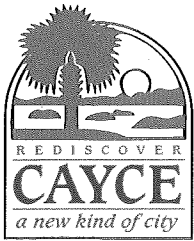
Richard W. Danner  
Mayor, City of Greer

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

---

**City Hall • 301 East Poinsett St. • Greer, South Carolina • 29651**





## CITY OF CAYCE

*MAYOR*  
ELISE PARTIN

*MAYOR PRO-TEM*  
JAMES E. JENKINS

*COUNCIL MEMBERS*  
TARA S. ALMOND  
EVA CORLEY  
TIMOTHY M. JAMES

*CITY MANAGER*  
REBECCA VANCE

*ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER*  
SHAUN M. GREENWOOD

October 22, 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. 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 yours,

Elise Partin,  
Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



Larry Bagwell  
Mayor

**CITY OF EASLEY**  
*Office Of The Mayor*

Easley, South Carolina 29641



Post Office Box 466

October 22, 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. 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.

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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.

Most sincerely yours,

Larry Bagwell  
Mayor, City of Easley

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA

HENRY L. JOLLY  
MAYOR



JAMES R. TAYLOR  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Council

Harold D. Littlejohn Sr.  
Thomas R. Reid  
S. Bernard Smith

P. O. Box 2109  
Gaffney, South Carolina 29342  
Telephone (864) 487-6247  
Fax (864) 487-8543

Council

Glenn Fuller  
Boone S. Peeler  
Billy Love

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 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.

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.

Most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry L. Jolly".

Henry L. Jolly, Mayor  
City of Gaffney, SC

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



JOSEPH T. McELVEEN, JR.  
MAYOR

CITY OF  
*Sumter*  
SOUTH CAROLINA

P.O. BOX 1449  
SUMTER, SC 29151  
(803) 436-2500  
FAX (803) 436-2615

October 23, 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. 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.

This is a project of statewide significance. Even here in Sumter, one hundred miles from Charleston, the port is an important factor in our economic development efforts and serves many manufacturers located here.

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,



Joseph T. McElveen, Jr.  
Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA

October 22, 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.

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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,



R. Keith Summey  
Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



*Mount Pleasant SC*  
COME ON OVER

**Linda Page**  
**Mayor**

October 22, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

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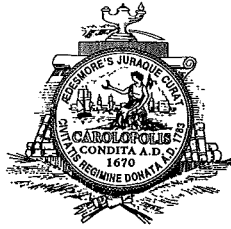
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USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Most sincerely yours,

Linda Page, Mayor  
TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



# City of Charleston

Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

Mayor

October 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. The Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have demonstrated statewide support for harbor deepening;

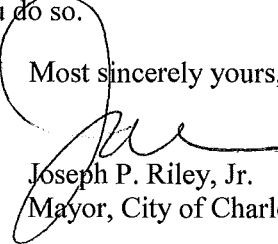
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USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Most sincerely yours,

  
Joseph P. Riley, Jr.  
Mayor, City of Charleston

JPR,jr/mp

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



P.O. Box 652, Charleston, South Carolina 29402

843-577-6970 Fax 843-720-3827

**J. Ron Brinson**

8655 McChune Court

North Charleston, South Carolina 29420

843-552-7980

November 11, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

The Charleston District has done a great job processing through revised procedures, the Charleston Harbor deepening.

I want to lend my voice to those urging a timely final approval and beginning of a deepening to 52-feet.

The S.C. State Ports Authority, as local assurer, has made a very strong case for the local, state and national interests in this project. The state has committed to the ultimate economic test – committing to an initial full funding of this work.

The Authority has documented that more than 260,000 South Carolinians are employed in jobs considered port-related. As notable is that the Port of Charleston continues to serve important national defense roles, and the annual collections of Customs duties and Constitutional ship fees creates federal revenues that total impressive multiples of federal costs for operation and maintenance of these channels.

In a word, this project is a very sound investment, and it can be completed with minimal and very manageable environmental considerations.

Our state's transportation industry and our citizenry generally strongly support this project. Please continue to keep it on track for a timely completion.

Respectfully,



Ron Brinson, PPM

District 4, Mayor Pro Tempore  
North Charleston City Council  
8655 McChune Court  
North Charleston, S.C. 29420





November 3, 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. 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.

Most sincerely yours,



Doug Echols  
Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA

---

CITY OF ROCK HILL  
155 JOHNSTON STREET, P.O. BOX 11706  
ROCK HILL, SC 29731-1706, 803-329-7000



October 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. 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.

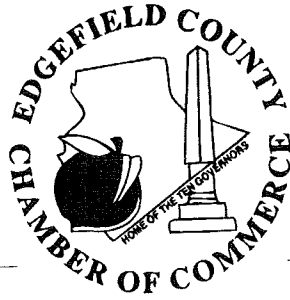
USACE and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolina to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dennis Raines'.

Dennis Raines, Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA



**EDGEFIELD COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

416 Calhoun Street  
Johnston, South Carolina 29832  
PHONE 803.275.0010

~~803.275.0010~~

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,

Donna C. Livingston  
Administrator  
Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce



**BEAUFORT, SC**  
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 23, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

This letter serves as an endorsement to 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. Deepening South Carolina's harbor to 52 feet is a game changer for jobs and economic growth for generations to come. 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,

Blakely Williams  
President & CEO



Charleston Metro  
Chamber of Commerce

4500 Leeds Avenue, Suite 100  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
www.charlestonchamber.net  
p: 843.577.2510

November 3, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

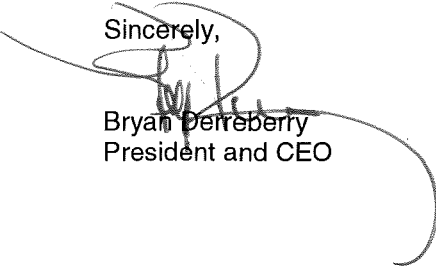
On behalf of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

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. I have enclosed a resolution of support passed unanimously by the Chamber's Board of Directors on October 24, 2014.

The Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce is the oldest continually operating chamber of commerce in the United States and was founded in 1773. Today we represent more than 1,700 business organizations in our three county region that employ more than 100,000 employees. Our Chamber was founded when a group of businessmen began working to expand trade through Charleston Harbor. The expansion of Charleston's ports remains a top priority for our Chamber two hundred and forty one years later.

The deepening of Charleston Harbor will allow South Carolina and our region to remain a globally competitive state and region. We urge you to move forward with final approval and begin the construction phase of the project as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Bryan Berreberry  
President and CEO

## Resolution in Support of Harbor Deepening

**WHEREAS** on October 7, 2014, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Charleston Harbor Post-45 Project and recommends the harbor be deepened to 52 feet, and

**WHEREAS** this project is essential to our region and state's economic future, and

**WHEREAS** today, more than 2,000 ships call on South Carolina's ports each year and South Carolina's ports handle more than \$65 billion in cargo each year, and

**WHEREAS** South Carolina's ports touch one in eleven jobs in our state and impact every county and every economic sector across the state and have an annual economic impact of more than \$45 billion, and

**WHEREAS** deepening Charleston Harbor to 52 feet will make Charleston the deepest port on the East Coast of the United States and position our region and our state to be globally competitive, and

**WHEREAS** the cost of the deepening project would be shared between the federal government and the South Carolina State Ports Authority at \$166 million and \$343 million, respectively, and

**WHEREAS** the deepening can be completed by 2019/2020, ensuring our global competitiveness, and

**WHEREAS** harbor deepening can be constructed in an environmentally-responsible manner, as Charleston's Harbor is already naturally wide and deep, and

**WHEREAS** the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce fully supports the expansion and growth of our Ports and the Maritime industry in our region and state, and

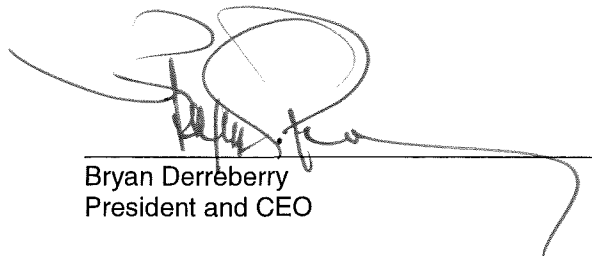
**WHEREAS** the goal of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce and World Trade Center Charleston are to expand global trade,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors that the Chamber fully supports the Charleston Harbor deepening project and the South Carolina Ports Authority's efforts to position South Carolina's ports as a leader in the international maritime industry.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.



Chris Fraser  
Chairman of the Board



Bryan Derreberry  
President and CEO



**Nikki R. Haley**  
Governor

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Robert M. Hitt III**  
Secretary

October 21, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

On behalf of the South Carolina Department of Commerce, I am writing this letter to express my support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

As the leading economic development agency for the State of South Carolina, the Department of Commerce recruits new companies and helps existing businesses – large and small – grow and thrive in the state. A key piece in this endeavor is South Carolina's infrastructure system, including ports, roadways and rail. As the Palmetto State and its economy continue to grow and change, it is critical that our infrastructure and transportation systems follow suit.

Statewide backing for this project has been extensive as the Governor, General Assembly, business groups and other stakeholders have all demonstrated 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. As the only state to do so, this action demonstrates that South Carolina is united in its support of deepening Charleston Harbor.

Importantly, in its thorough analysis, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement concludes 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 future generations. Accounting for one in 11 jobs in South Carolina, our seaports allow the companies in our state to conduct business on a truly global level. Therefore, it is vital to The Palmetto State that the Charleston Harbor is deepened to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock. This project will positively impact our collective statewide efforts to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for our citizens in each of South Carolina's 46 counties.

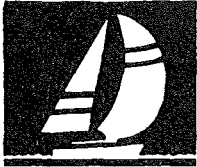
Thank you for your consideration of this critical project. I respectfully urge you to approve the proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project for Charleston Harbor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Hitt III", written over a faint circular stamp.

Robert M. Hitt III

RMH/ch/vw



**Greater Irmo  
Chamber of  
Commerce**

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Chuck Larsen  
President and CEO

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,



Charles L. Larsen  
CEO, President, Emeritus  
Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce  
**1248 Lake Murray Boulevard  
Irmo, South Carolina 29063**

1248 Lake Murray Blvd. • Post Office Box 1246 • Irmo, South Carolina 29063  
(803) 749-9355 • Fax: 732-7986  
E-Mail - [info@irmochamber.com](mailto:info@irmochamber.com) Web Site - [www.irmochamber.com](http://www.irmochamber.com)





**Greater Florence**  
**CHAMBER OF**  
**COMMERCE**

238 S. Coit St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Florence, SC 29501

PO Box 948  
Florence, SC 29503

843-665-0515  
Fax: 843-662-2010  
[www.flochamber.com](http://www.flochamber.com)

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

October 14, 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.

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,

Michael J. Miller  
President  
Greater Florence South Carolina Chamber of Commerce



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**H I S P A N I C**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 13, 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,

Evelyn Lugo  
President & Founder



November 5, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce is the unified voice of business in the Palmetto State. Today, I write in support of the US Army Corps of Engineers' and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project.

South Carolina ports deliver \$44.8 billion in annual economic impact and support more than 260,000 jobs in the state. Deepening South Carolina's harbor to 52 feet will be a "game changer" for jobs and economic growth in the state for generations to come.

This project is essential to South Carolina's global competitiveness and has received overwhelming support from Governor Nikki Haley, the South Carolina General Assembly, allied business groups and others. In fact, the South Carolina General Assembly has already set aside South Carolina's share of the estimated funding needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to do this thus far, demonstrating our deep commitment to seeing this project to fruition.

Simply put, this project must go forward for the future of South Carolina. As cargo ships get larger, our harbor must keep up to efficiently handle them. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our ability to create more jobs and improve the quality of life for citizens.

I urge you to support the forward movement of this essential infrastructure for South Carolina – deepening our harbor to 52-feet.

Sincerely,

Otis Rawl  
President and CEO

1301 Gervais Street  
Suite 1100  
Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 799-4601

Fax  
(803) 779-6043

[www.scchamber.net](http://www.scchamber.net)



October 15, 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 proposed harbor deepening project that will increase the depth of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet.

As you know, shipping vessels are increasing in size, and these increases require bold actions for the Port of Charleston to keep up with what is becoming the global shipping standard. The port is critical to the economic future of not just the Charleston area, but the entire state of South Carolina. This project will have a tremendous positive impact, both on current business and future economic development. One in every 11 existing jobs in the state depends on the port in some capacity.

I am not alone in my support of deepening the harbor; rather, I am simply adding my voice to the chorus of business, community, and non-profit entities that see just how critical this endeavor is to the state. The Governor, General Assembly, and other governmental bodies have also delivered clear messages of support for the project. The bipartisan backing illustrates our belief that this is something that extends beyond politics, and beyond competition. This is an issue that is important to all of South Carolina; we are all stakeholders.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Quinetta M. Buterbaugh  
President

Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce

October 27, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

As a former Chairman of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce and a citizen concerned about the continued economic vitality, I write to endorse the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed 52-foot harbor deepening project. The Port is *the major driver* of the local, state and regional economy.

This project is absolutely essential to South Carolina's economic future. In a state where political consensus is rare, 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 this 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. Ronald Jones, Jr.

**Steve Moss**  
District No. 30 - *Cherokee & York*  
Counties  
104 Rains Road  
Blacksburg, SC 29702  
864-839-3135



418-D Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6885  
stevemoss@schouse.gov

**Committee:**  
Agriculture, Natural Resources  
and Environmental Affairs, 2nd Vice  
Chairman

**House of  
Representatives**  
State of South Carolina

October 28, 2014

**RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. The project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.


As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

  
Steve Moss

SM:dh



FLORENCE ADDRESS  
1817 Pineland Avenue  
Florence, South Carolina 29501  
(843) 667-1152

## HUGH K. LEATHERMAN, SR.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 31, FLORENCE  
AND DARLINGTON COUNTIES

111 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202  
(803) 212-6640

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
South Carolina Senate

### COMMITTEES

Chairman, Finance  
Chairman, Operations and Management  
Ethics  
Interstate Cooperation  
Labor, Commerce and Industry  
Rules  
State House  
Transportation

October 29, 2014

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

Re: Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

I would like to go on record as wholeheartedly supporting the proposed project to deepen the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the S.C. Ports Authority.

As President *Pro Tempore* of the South Carolina Senate and Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I join with my fellow legislators, the governor, business groups and other stakeholders in support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the SC General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funding needed for this project--the only state to take this step. This move demonstrates that our state has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I am confident that this project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner as found in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement. I strongly urge the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost-shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every eleven jobs statewide. It is a key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact our efforts to create jobs and improve the lives of our citizens.

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
October 29, 2014  
Page Two

USACE and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of our citizens and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H.K.L.', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.  
Senate District 31

HKL:dsm

17/PO





October 15, 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.

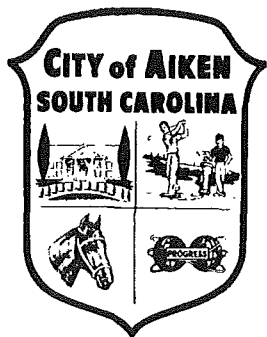
Simply put, this project must go forward for the economic well-being of our state for generations to come. Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason for our tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Johnson", is written in a cursive style.

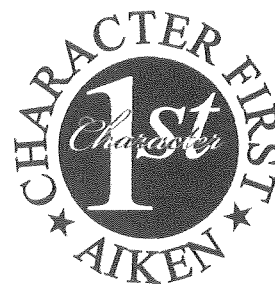
Mayor William Johnson, SCCBM President



# CITY OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

Post Office Box 1177

Aiken, S.C. 29802



Fred B. Cavanaugh  
Mayor

October 20, 2014

*Character comes first in Aiken*

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. 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.

With Kindest Regards,

Fred B. Cavanaugh  
Mayor

cc: Mr. James Newsome, III, President/CEO, SCPA

SENATOR J. GREGORY HEMBREE  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 28  
HORRY AND DILLON COUNTIES

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES  
EDUCATION  
FISH, GAME & FORESTRY  
JUDICIARY  
TRANSPORTATION



SENATE OFFICE:  
POST OFFICE BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202  
PHONE: (803) 212-6016  
EMAIL: GREGHEMBREE@SCSENATE.GOV

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
POST OFFICE BOX 944  
N. MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA 29597  
PHONE: (843) 222-1001

October 20, 2014

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

**RE: SUPPORT OF CHARLESTON HARBOR DEEPENING PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

Please allow this letter to serve as my strongest endorsement of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to fifty-two (52) feet.

I join with other members of the South Carolina General Assembly, the Governor, and a broad base of groups and stakeholders throughout South Carolina in support of this effort. In 2013 I voted in favor of setting aside the state's share of the funds needed for the project. This bold step by our General Assembly to put "skin in the game" was approved overwhelmingly in a bipartisan vote. South Carolina has rallied around this project because it is so very important to South Carolina and the East Coast of the United States.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement have found that the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. Great news for conservationists like me and many of my constituents. Now it is time to move forward.

You well know the profound impact the Charleston Harbor has on the economic well-being of our state and the positive effect the deepening will have on shipping in the future. There is no need for me to review those statistics here. Simply stated, I urge to you to approve the project.

Your servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gregory Hembree". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

J. Gregory Hembree, Senator  
Horry and Dillon Counties

**Shane Martin**  
South Carolina Senate District 13  
Greenville, Spartanburg and  
Union Counties

Committees:  
Corrections and Penology  
General  
Judiciary  
Medical Affairs  
Rules



October 29, 2014

Senate Office Address:  
Suite 501 Gressette Office Building  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
Telephone: (803) 212-6100  
Fax: (803) 212-6299  
Email: shanemartin@scsenate.gov

Home Office Address:  
P.O. Box 575  
Pauline, South Carolina 29374

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

**RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

Deepening the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being. I support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposal to deepen Charleston Harbor.

I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for this project. In 2013, the General Assembly came together in a bipartisan vote and set aside their differences and reserved the state's share of estimated funds for this project. South Carolina is the only state that has taken this step. Long known for our robust political climate, the South Carolina General Assembly recognized the positive impact Charleston Harbor has on our state's economy and continued prosperity and have come together in a unique and tangible way to support this project.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in a responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan fully sharing the project cost as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our ports directly or indirectly support one in eleven statewide jobs. It is crucial for South Carolina's continued economic growth. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would greatly impact statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you pursue the project of deepening Charleston Harbor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shane", written in dark ink.

Shane Martin, Senator  
State Senate District 13

SM:ph

# Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee



THOMAS C. ALEXANDER  
CHAIRMAN

SUITE 313  
GRESSETTE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: (803) 212-6220

THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
P. O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

LISA MANINI SOX  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

CAROLYN W. YOUMANS  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

October 20, 2014

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

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 project

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

This letter is to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. Representing Senate District #1, the farthest area from the Port, I know this project is essential to our statewide economic success and well-being.

Further, as Chairman of the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, I am pleased to join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, The General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's shares of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this giant step. This move 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I wholeheartedly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Here in South Carolina, our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990's. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact stateside efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders from every corner of the State to approve this project. It is with my greatest respect that I request you do so for the betterment of our citizens and our State as a whole.

Mr. Mark Messersmith  
October 20, 2014  
Page -2-

Thank you for your support of this project. Should I be able to provide further information regarding my support please feel free to contact me.

With kind regards,

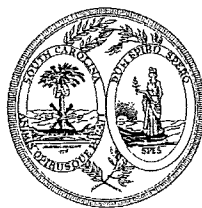
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Alexander", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas C. Alexander

# Review & Oversight Commission On the South Carolina Ports Authority

SENATOR LAWRENCE K. GROOMS  
CHAIRMAN

SENATOR HUGH K. LEATHERMAN, SR.  
SENATOR TOM DAVIS  
SENATOR PAUL G. CAMPBELL, JR.  
SENATOR NIKKI G. SETZLER  
REP. WILLIAM E. "BILL" SANDIFER, III  
REP. JAMES H. MERRILL  
REP. J. DAVID WEEKS  
REP. W. BRIAN WHITE  
REP. JENNY A. HORNE



POST OFFICE BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202-0142  
(803) 212-6400

DAVID J. OWENS  
RESEARCH DIRECTOR

KENNETH M. MOFFITT  
SENATE COUNSEL

PATRICK DENNIS  
HOUSE COUNSEL

ANDY FIFFICK  
HOUSE COUNSEL

LILY COGDILL  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

October 15, 2014

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

## **RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

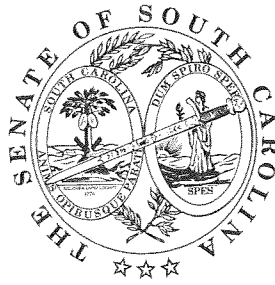
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Grooms". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Grooms

J. THOMAS McELVEEN, III  
SENATOR, KERSHAW, LEE, RICHLAND  
AND SUMTER COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 35

HOME ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 57  
SUMTER, SC 29151  
(803) 775-1263

SENATE ADDRESS:  
P. O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
(803) 212-6132



COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY  
JUDICIARY  
RULES

November 4, 2014

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

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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 Engineer's Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environment Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Thomas McElveen, III".

J. THOMAS McELVEEN, III



SEAN M. BENNETT  
SENATOR, DORCHESTER, BERKLEY AND  
CHARLESTON COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 38

COLUMBIA ADDRESS:  
P. O. BOX 142  
601 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BLDG.  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
PHONE: (803) 212-6116  
FAX: (803) 212-6299  
EMAIL: SEANBENNETT@SCSENATE.GOV



COMMITTEES:  
BANKING AND INSURANCE  
TRANSPORTATION  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY

DISTRICT ADDRESS:  
121 S. CEDAR STREET  
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483  
PHONE: (843) 821-3009

October 29, 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one out of every eleven jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990's. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. Bennett".

Senator Sean M. Bennett  
Senate District #38

ROSS TURNER  
SENATOR, GREENVILLE COUNTY  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 8

HOME ADDRESS:  
POST OFFICE BOX 16703  
GREENVILLE, SC 29606  
(864) 288-9513



COMMITTEES:  
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
RULES

SENATE ADDRESS:  
SUITE 512  
GRESSETTE OFFICE BUILDING  
POST OFFICE BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
(803) 212-6148  
FAX: (803) 212-6299  
E-MAIL: ROSSTURNER@SCSENATE.GOV

October 24, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. I believe that this project will prove to have a positive effect on the economy in South Carolina.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows that our state has come together in a unique and tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

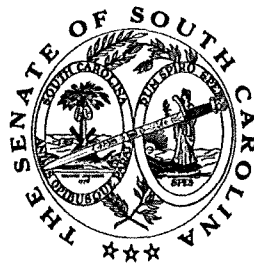
*Ross Turner*

Ross Turner

District 8

TOM YOUNG, JR.  
SENATE, DISTRICT NO. 24  
AIKEN COUNTY

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY  
GENERAL  
GOVERNOR'S NUCLEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL  
JUDICIARY



SENATE OFFICE ADDRESS:  
GRESSETTE BUILDING - SUITE 506  
P.O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202  
PHONE: (803) 212-6124  
FAX: (803) 212-6299  
E-MAIL: TOMYOUNG@SCSENATE.GOV

AIKEN OFFICE ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 651  
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA 29802  
PHONE: (803) 649-0000  
CELL: (803) 215-3631  
FAX: (803) 649-7005  
EMAIL: TOM@SENATORTOMYOUNG.COM

October 27, 2014

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

**RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

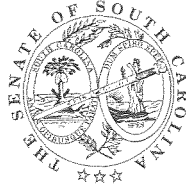
Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990s. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom".

State Senator  
District # 24



ROBERT W. HAYES, JR.  
SENATOR YORK COUNTY  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 15

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING AND INSURANCE, CHAIRMAN  
ETHICS  
EDUCATION  
FINANCE  
MEDICAL AFFAIRS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
THE SENATE

SENATE ADDRESS:  
SUITE 410  
GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BLDG.  
P.O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
TEL.: (803) 212-6240  
FAX: (803) 212-6299  
EMAIL: SBICOMM@SCSENATE.GOV

HOME ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 904  
ROCK HILL, SC 29731  
803-324-2800

Date 10/21/14

**RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Hayes, Jr.", written in a cursive style.



House of Representatives  
State of South Carolina

**Todd K. Atwater**

District No. 87 - Lexington County  
P.O. Box 1056  
Lexington, SC 29071

320-D Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211

Tel. (803) 212-6924

**Committees:**

Labor, Commerce and Industry  
Rules

October 30, 2014

RE: Support of Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

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

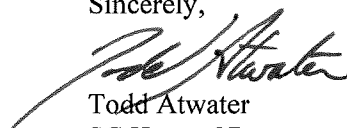
Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's and the South East region's economic well being. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels would impact statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with the Governor, business groups and others to demonstrate statewide support for this project. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This shows our state has come together in a very tangible way to support harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so the project can be fully cost shared by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor, and respectfully request approval of this project.

Sincerely,



Todd Atwater  
SC House 87

OFFICE ADDRESS:  
407 Blatt Building  
Columbia SC 29211  
(803) 734-3015  
email: BillSandifer@schoouse.gov



HOME ADDRESS:  
112 Cardinal Drive  
Seneca SC 29672  
Message Center: (864) 885-2240  
email: bill@sandifer.us

**REPRESENTATIVE BILL SANDIFER**  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

October 22, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I am writing in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. It is my understanding that at least 260,000 jobs across our state are tied to the port with a \$45 billion a year economic impact.

In 2013, the General Assembly set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. As the only state to have taken this step, South Carolina has proven its awareness of the need to continue further economic growth in the future by being able to accommodate the larger, post-Panamax vessels that, with the expansion of the Panama Canal, will call on the East Coast more frequently. The deepening of the harbor will eliminate the current tidal restrictions in handling these vessels.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Failure to deepen the harbor would have a significant impact on our state's continuing efforts to create jobs and the quality of life of our citizens.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project and to offer my strongest support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Sandifer". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Bill Sandifer



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BRIAN WHITE  
DISTRICT NO. 6 - ANDERSON COUNTY  
POST OFFICE BOX 970  
ANDERSON, SC 29622

525 BLATT BUILDING  
COLUMBIA, SC 29211  
TELEPHONE (803) 734-3144

COMMITTEE:  
WAYS AND MEANS, CHAIRMAN

October 31, 2014

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

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian White".

Brian White, Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee

WBW/kgj



**J. Wayne George**  
District No. 57 – Marion-Dillon-  
Horry Counties  
P. O. Box 395  
Mullins, SC 29574



333-A Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211

Tel. (843) 464-6884

**Committee:**  
Agriculture, National Resources  
and Environmental Affairs

## House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

October 21, 2014

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

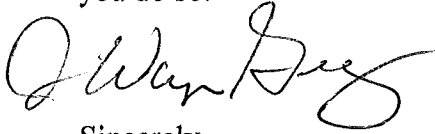
I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic growth since recruiting BMW in the early 1990's. Failure to deepen the harbor to accommodate post-Panamax vessels around the clock would impact statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Warren Brey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the word "Sincerely,".

Sincerely,

**Chip Huggins**  
District No. 85 - Lexington County  
308 Wayworth Court  
Columbia, SC 29212

**Committee:**

Ways and Means

**Subcommittees:**

Economic Development  
and Natural Resources  
Property Tax



323-B Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 734-2971  
Fax (803) 734-0103

**House of Representatives**  
State of South Carolina

October 20, 2014

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system - tied to 1 of every 11 jobs statewide - is critical to our State's vibrant and growing manufacturing sector and is the key reason South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

I have made the port a priority and support this project.

Sincerely,

Chip Huggins

CH/vhr/2014oct20-2

**Bill Bowers, PhD, CPA**  
District No. 122 - Beaufort, *Hampton*  
and Jasper Counties  
P. O. Box 686  
Hampton, SC 29924



310-C Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 734-2959  
BillBowers@schouse.gov

**Committee:**  
Labor, Commerce and  
Industry

**Subcommittees:**  
Banking & Consumer  
Affairs  
Public Utilities  
Regulations

## House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

**Delegation Office Numbers:**

Beaufort 843-255-2260  
Hampton 803-914-2142  
Jasper 843-726-6019

October 29, 2014

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Bowers". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Bowers



## House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

534 Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 734-3141/Fax (803) 734-0487  
e-mail [garrysmith@schouse.gov](mailto:garrysmith@schouse.gov)

**Committees:**

Chairman, Operations and  
Management  
Chairman, Ways and Means  
Property Tax Subcommittee

**Garry R. Smith**

District No. 27--*Greenville County*  
210 Foxhound Road  
Simpsonville, SC 29680  
(864) 963-0337  
[www.garrysmith.org](http://www.garrysmith.org)

October 15, 2014

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I am sending this letter to you to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system - tied to 1 of every 11 jobs statewide - is critical to our State's vibrant and growing manufacturing sector, including upstate businesses such as BMW and Michelin. It is the key reason South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

I, along with the Golden Strip Chambers of Fountain Inn, Mauldin and Simpsonville, have made the port a priority and support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garry R. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Garry R. Smith



# House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

**Stephen L. Goldfinch, Jr.**  
District No. 108 - Charleston -  
Georgetown Counties  
P. O. Box 823  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

October 21, 2014

306-A Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

Tel. (803) 212-6927

**Committee:**

Agriculture, Natural Resources  
and Environmental Affairs

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Goldfinch".

Stephen L. Goldfinch, Jr.

House of Representatives, District No. 108

ALAN D. CLEMMONS  
CHAIRMAN



DISTRICT OFFICE  
1800-A NORTH OAK STREET  
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577

# The House of Representatives

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RULES COMMITTEE

P. O. BOX 11867

Columbia 29211

(803) 734-3113

October 24, 2014

**RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

**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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.**

**As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.**

**Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.**

**USACE and the S.C. Department of Mental Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan".

**Alan Clemmons**



**Jenny A. Horne**

District No. 94 – Charleston-  
Dorchester Counties  
133 E. 1st. North St., Suite 5  
Summerville, SC 29483

308-D Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6871  
Bus. (803) 873-1721

**Committees:**

Judiciary  
Ethics  
Chair,  
Special Laws Subcommittee

**House of Representatives**  
State of South Carolina

JennyHorne@schouse.gov

October 17, 2014

**RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to 1 of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny A. Horne".

Jenny A. Horne



**Kenny Bingham**  
District No. 89 - Lexington County  
P.O. Box 2025  
Cayce, SC 29171



519-B Blatt Building  
P.O. Box 11867  
Columbia, SC 29211

Tel. (803) 734-3114

**Committees:**

Ethics, Chairman  
Ways and Means  
Public Education & Special Schools  
Subcommittee, Chairman  
Licenses, Fees, Insurance Tax &  
Other Charges Subcommittee  
Revenue Policy Subcommittee

**House of Representatives**  
State of South Carolina

October 21, 2014

**RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project**

**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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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 the S.C. Department of Mental Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Kenny Bingham

Mike Ryhal  
District No. 56 - Horry County  
8328 Juxa Drive  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Committee:  
Medical, Military, Public  
& Municipal Affairs



404-A Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6935  
mikeryhal@schouse.gov

## House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

November 4, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith,

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with the Governor, business group, and other stockholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows that our state, long known for its robust political climate, has come together in a unique and tangible way to support the harbor deepening.

I have confidence in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally-responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corp to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system is tied to one of every 11 jobs statewide. It is the key reason that South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

USACE and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have the support of South Carolinians and their leaders to approve this project. I respectfully request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Mike Ryhal



# House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

**Leola C. Robinson-Simpson**

District No. 25 - Greenville County  
19 Prince Avenue  
Greenville, SC 29605  
Tel. (864) 277-0232

330-A Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201  
LeolaRobinsonSimpson@schouse.gov

**Committees:**

Medical, Military, Public  
and Municipal Affairs

Tel. (803) 212-6941  
Fax (803) 734-2925

SC General Assembly Women's  
Caucus  
SC Legislative Black Caucus

October 29, 2014

Senator Larry Grooms  
Review and Oversight Committee on the  
South Carolina Ports Authority  
PO Box 142  
Charleston, SC 29202-0142

Dear Senator Grooms:

I am writing this letter in support of the deepening of the Charleston Harbor because of the jobs and economic impact that the deepening will have on our state, moving forward. I realize that our nation needs to have ports that can accommodate incoming vessels, regardless of the tides, in order to be competitive globally.

Thank you for all that you do to make sure that our ports are maintained.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rep. Leola Robinson-Simpson".

Rep. Leola Robinson-Simpson

**Chip Huggins**

District No. 85 - Lexington County  
308 Wayworth Court  
Columbia, SC 29212

**Committee:**

Ways and Means

**Subcommittees:**

Economic Development  
and Natural Resources  
Property Tax



**House of Representatives**  
State of South Carolina

323-B Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 734-2971  
Fax (803) 734-0103

October 21, 2014

RE: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I write to endorse the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Ports Authority's proposed deepening of the Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. This project is essential to South Carolina's economic well-being.

As a member of the General Assembly, I join with the Governor, business groups and other stakeholders to demonstrate statewide support for harbor deepening. In 2013, the General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, set aside the state's share of the estimated funds needed for the project. South Carolina is the only state to have taken this step. This move shows 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' Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environment Impact Statement, which finds the project can be accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. I strongly encourage the Corps to align the Selected Plan with the Locally Preferred Plan so that the project can be fully cost shared as provided by law between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor.

Our port system - tied to 1 of every 11 jobs statewide - is critical to our State's vibrant and growing manufacturing sector and is the key reason South Carolina has enjoyed 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 statewide efforts to create jobs and improve quality of life.

I have made the port a priority and support this project.

Sincerely,

Chip Huggins

CH/vhr/2014oct20-2

e-mail: [chiphuggins@schouse.gov](mailto:chiphuggins@schouse.gov)  
24-Hour Hotline (803) 331-8468

# Anderson County Legislative Delegation

## Senate

Kevin L. Bryant  
District No. 3



## Senate

William H. O'Dell  
District No. 4

## House of Representatives

Brian White  
District No. 6  
Vice Chairman

Michael W. Gambrell  
District No. 7  
Chairman

Don C. Bowen  
District No. 8

POST OFFICE BOX 8002  
2404 NORTH MAIN STREET  
ANDERSON, SC 29622  
Telephone (864)260-4025  
FAX (864) 260-4066

Linda S. Gilliland  
Executive Secretary

## House of Representatives

Anne J. Thayer  
District No. 9  
Secretary

Joshua A. Putnam  
District No. 10

Craig Gagnon  
District No. 11

October 23, 2014

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

Re: Support for Charleston Harbor Post 45 Project

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

We, the undersigned members of the Anderson County Legislative Delegation, do hereby endorse and support the Charleston Harbor to be deepened to 52 feet. Because our ports directly or indirectly support one of every eleven jobs in our state, this project is crucial for our continued economic well-being and we feel that this project is a game-changer for our state.

There are numerous facts that make up our decision to support this project and we believe the number one fact is that there are 260,000 jobs across South Carolina that are tied to the port which creates a \$45 billion-a-year economic impact for our state.

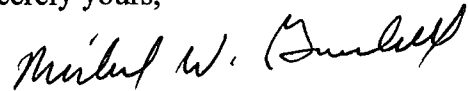
Charleston currently receives seven post-Panamax vessel calls weekly and already handles these ships of this size with tidal restrictions and the deepening of the this Harbor will increase vessel calls and allow Charleston to handle these ships regardless of tide. Our state has become one of the fastest-growing regions of the country and we need this project to accommodate the fully-loaded post-Panamax vessels which will weigh more and increase our trade with other countries. Our state has a vibrant and growing manufacturing sector but the US container trade is expected to be export-dominant by 2020. Because export containers are typically heavier than import containers, the additional depth would also accommodate these fully-loaded post-Panamax vessels and would definitely be an asset to our manufacturing trade. We also believe, according to the Corps that the deepening of this Harbor will be done in an environmentally responsible manner.

Another factor is that this project will allow Charleston to move more cargo on newer ships which will have a positive impact on our air quality.


Also, the General Assembly has set aside the full estimated state share of the deepening costs in 2013 and we believe this is likely the best value for public funds.

We all want what is best for South Carolina and we hope we can move forward with this project in the very near future. Thank you for your consideration and should you need to speak with us further, please don't hesitate to contact us at your earliest convenience.

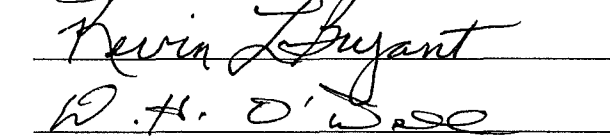
Sincerely yours,



Michael W. Gambrell, Chairman




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MWG/lg




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