



August 6, 2009

Mr. John Sweeney, Editorial Page Editor  
The News Journal  
Letters to the Editor  
P.O. Box 15505  
Wilmington, DE 19850

**Re: July 26<sup>th</sup> Editorial "Del. River Dredging plan should be shut down"**

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

We would like to respond to your July 26, 2009 editorial suggesting the Delaware River dredging plan should be shut down.

Based on a recent local and regional economic impact study, the Port of Wilmington is responsible for sustaining 4,350 direct, indirect and induced jobs and producing approximately \$28 million in annual state and local taxes. As you can see the maritime community is a major employer, generator of tax revenues and an economic engine for the state of Delaware. It is an extremely valuable resource for the State and should be afforded the opportunity to prosper and grow its business and workforce in the future.

We concur that there is an absolute requirement to ensure we have a safe and clean environment and our community is a strong supporter of these values. However, your stated position that the "Delaware River Dredging plan should be shut down" places neither our Port nor our State in a position to take advantage of potential long term benefits associated with the continuing development of waterfront facilities and related business, the creation of jobs and the additional taxes... all byproducts of a deeper channel

Providing a deeper draft for cargo vessels is similar to adding lanes to existing highways or improving bridges to meet and promote growth in our state. Without those improvements economic development would be hampered, businesses would find it more difficult to grow and our citizens would, see that it is more difficult to enjoy the beaches, shopping and arriving at work everyday in a timely manner.

DIAMOND STATE PORT CORPORATION

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PORT OF PERSONAL SERVICE



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The Port of Wilmington and the local maritime community should be placed in a position to sustain and grow our State's business consistent with sound environmental practice. If, after careful review of the required environmental information to be submitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DNREC interposes no objections to the dredging, a permit should be issued by the State as soon as possible to finally move forward with the "45 Foot Channel."

Sincerely yours,

  
Eugene R. Bailey  
Executive Director

ERB:djt