

December 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

The 103 mile Delaware River Channel serves three States, and the deepening project was authorized by Congress in 1992. The Army Corps of Engineers has spent over \$15 million in environmental studies over twenty years. All necessary studies have been approved by federal agencies and the required environmental clearance obtained. The Corps has taken the position that Delaware Subaqueous Land Permit is not a requirement, and as such, is not legally required for the project.

The project will be paid for by Pennsylvania and the Federal Government. The benefits that Delaware will receive, at no cost to the State, are:

- About 1,800,000 cubic yards of sand placed on Broadkill Beach to protect that community and create habitat for shore birds, turtles and horseshoe crabs (cost: \$33 million).
- About 2,500,000 cubic yards of sand placed for the protection and creation of wetlands at Kelly Island (cost: \$57 million).
- A 60 mile 45 foot draft channel to the Port of Wilmington (cost: \$52 million).

We, the undersigned, agree that without a 45 foot channel, the Port of Wilmington will have trouble competing. Over 70% of container ships need 45 feet.

The Port of Wilmington has access to an adjacent 190 acre disposal area called Wilmington South, which could be privatized and developed into a new and expanded terminal facility. Wilmington would become a major northeastern port. Also, by moving the deep draft ships to alongside the channel and out of the Christina River, the Port's annual cost of maintenance dredging would be lower.

All of the above would MEAN JOBS and an economic boost for our State.

Sincerely,



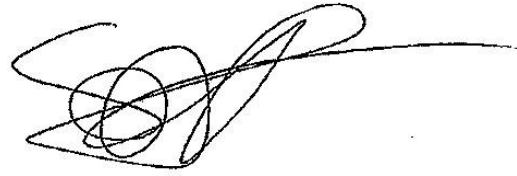
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Chairman.
Murphy Marine Services, Inc



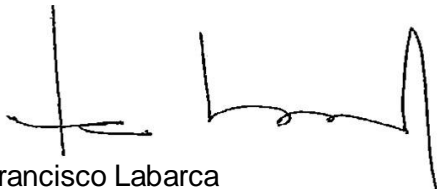
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Stuart Jablon
Vice President, Operations
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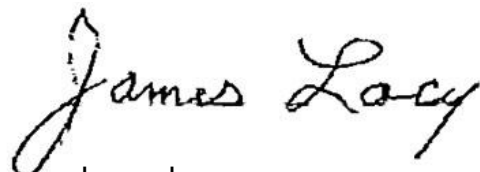
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Executive Director
Pacific Seaways, S.A.



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ILA Local 1694-1



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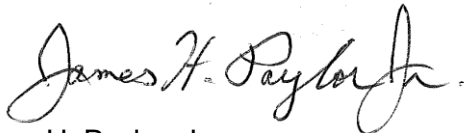
James Lacy
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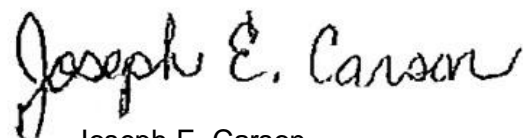
Roy Kirchner
President
AutoPort, Inc/Trans Cargo, LLC



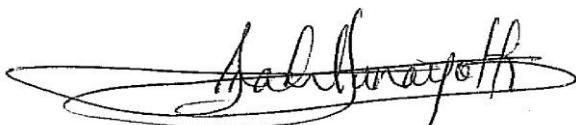
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Atl. Coast District Vice President
International Longshoremen's Assoc



James H. Paylor, Jr.
International Vice President
International Longshoremen's Assoc.



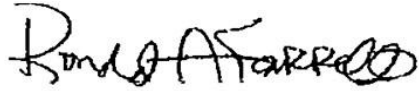
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President
ILA Local 1883



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President
Port to Port International Corporation



Alan Cosby
Area Supervisor
Magellan Terminal Holdings, Ip



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Trustee Representative
ILA Local 1694



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