



GREATER PHILADELPHIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Get Involved. Get results.™

200 South Broad Street, Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19102-3896 | P 215-790-3666 | F 215-790-3736 | E rwonderling@greaterphilachamber.com

ROBERT C. WONDERLING
President & CEO

September 15, 2011

Facsimile: (202) 228-0604

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of the region's business community, I write to reiterate the full support of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) for the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening project. Deepening the Delaware River shipping channel will allow our region to remain competitive in the global marketplace and assure the future economic health and vitality of the Delaware River maritime complex. With each day that passes devoid of a deeper channel, our region risks not only its current revenue streams but also any potential for developing new business.

Dredging the main channel from 40 to 45 feet will allow the Delaware River ports to accommodate today's larger ships carrying more cargo, reducing the cost of moving cargo through the ports, and enhancing their competitiveness amongst other regional ports. This project will enable the Delaware River maritime industry to effectively compete and grow. In a 2008 report by the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia and the Economic Development Research Group for the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation, statistics showed that maritime activity in this region supports 12,121 jobs and \$772 million in labor income, generating \$2.4 billion in economic output. Without the ability to accommodate larger vessels, our regional port system may lose this tremendous economic return.

In addition, the deepening of the Delaware River shipping channel will significantly enhance the likelihood of private investments in Delaware River Port infrastructure. It is a prerequisite for private investment in the South Port container terminal and the key to over \$1.0 billion in port infrastructure improvements all along the river. South Port, a proposed new 180 acre container terminal, located along the Delaware River in the City of Philadelphia will significantly enhance job creation when completed. Some have estimated the number of containers that could be handled at the South Port container terminal could range as high as 3.0 million per year. Based upon this estimated level of container traffic the estimated job creation will be around 250,000 direct and indirect jobs. This is consistent with the impact of other East Coast ports that have deepened channels and improved facilities.

The GPCC has long advocated for the completion of this project because of the economic potential it creates. As you know, this project has been examined and re-examined many times over. Each time re-examination has only strengthened the appeal and advisability of this project. We are convinced that this project is good for the entire region and will contribute to the revitalization of this region's historic and vital maritime industry. We urge your support for the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening project and ask that you do everything possible to bring this important project to a speedy completion.

Sincerely,

RC

*This is even more imp. with
the Recat Sunoco Announcement!*