



# MARITIME EXCHANGE

for the Delaware River and Bay

*Leading the Way to Port Progress*

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## **LABOR AND BUSINESS RALLY AGAINST DELAY IN 45' CHANNEL PROJECT**

*Labor and businesses discuss their reaction and outline their plans in relation to the recent announcement by the Army Corps of Engineers to delay the deepening of the Delaware River Main Channel.*

PHILADELPHIA, PA – At Penn's Landing today, labor and businesses rebuked the decision to delay the deepening project any longer than necessary. "We do not want to see our project held as a scapegoat for any broad issues of concern between the Army Corps of Engineers and the General Accounting Office," said Maritime Exchange President Dennis Rochford. "This project needs to stand on its own merits and after a decade worth of studying, we believe that not only does it make sense to deepen from a business perspective, but the studies will show it is a clean project as well."

As the organizer of the rally, the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay represents nearly 280 maritime businesses and labor in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The Exchange is joined in support by the public port authorities on the Delaware River: Delaware River Port Authority, South Jersey Port Corporation, Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, and the Port of Wilmington, Delaware. With a mission to promote commerce on the Delaware River, the Exchange is alarmed by the recent announcement by the Corps of Engineers' Director of Civil Works, Maj. Gen. Robert Griffin, that the Delaware River Deepening Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) has been suspended in response to the GAO study. The GAO study has yet to be released to the public.

This project impacts more than 50,000 working men and women whose jobs depend on international cargo. "Decisions are being made internally without regard to public and full congressional input," said Rochford. "Once the GAO study is made public, we as stakeholders can address any issues that may arise. Until that juncture, both business and labor want this congressionally approved project to continue without delay," continued Rochford. "This press conference marks that beginning of a concerted effort to make this issue paramount to our congressional delegation."

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