

JAXPORT

March 17, 2021

Port Canaveral

Dear Triumph Board Members,

Port Everglades

On behalf the Florida Ports Council (FPC), I am pleased to submit this letter supporting the Port St. Joe Port Authority application for a Triumph Grant. The Port Authority is seeking funding to dredge their shipping channel, which will provide port access imperative for port expansion, modernization, and the increase of domestic and international trade activity. These improvements will assist the region in recovery from the Deep-Water Horizon Oil Spill and Hurricane Michael, while moving the Panhandle towards positive economic development.

Port of Fernandina

Port of Fort Pierce

This project will provide economic recovery and diversification to a Rural Area of Opportunity. Contiguous counties will benefit due to the shared transient employees and the common transportation assets allowing the region to re-open rail and water shipping for domestic and international markets. The 35 feet plus 2 feet dredged depth will provide ocean going vessels with the needed depth to utilize the port for trade. The Port's ability to handle additional tonnage will make it the Gateway to the Gulf for the Gadsden Freight Logistic Zone, linking the Port to industrial development sites along the Apalachicola Northern Railroad and Interstate 10.

Port of Key West

PortMiami

Port Manatee

FPC is a Florida nonprofit corporation that serves as the professional association for Florida's fourteen public seaports. FPC provides advocacy, leadership, marketing, and information on seaport-related issues before the legislative and executive branches of state and federal government. Florida's network of seaports is one of the state's greatest economic assets, positively affecting every region and every resident. Whether moving over a hundred million tons of cargo annually or millions of cruise passengers, Florida's seaports generate and support a vast array of commerce and FPC believes a strong, strategic, public/private partnership between Florida's ports and state and local government will enable our diverse seaports to continue their vast economic contributions to every region of our state.

Port of Palm Beach

Port of Panama City

Port of Pensacola

We are pleased to support this important initiative. Thank you for your favorable consideration of the Port St. Joe Port Authority's Triumph grant application.

Port of Port St. Joe

Sincerely,

Port St. Pete



Doug Wheeler,
President & CEO

Port Tampa Bay