

DNREC  
Office of the Secretary  
89 King's Hwy. SW  
Dover, De, 19901

12/1/2020

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in support of the application of The Longshoreman of Wilmington Delaware for the construction, expansion, and enhancement of the Port of Wilmington to build a Container Port in accordance with plans submitted under Mr. Ronald Harris, President, International Longshoreman's Association.

As you well know, this application would provide employment opportunities and educational opportunities for a significant portion of the Delaware population. We are in sore need of these opportunities if Delaware is to remain a viable economic entity in the Tri-State region and eastern seaboard.

Delaware has a long history in the shipping industry. Beginning with the landing of the first Swedes who colonized this state. The skills developed from this industry included ship building, wood working, intercontinental trade, trade along the eastern seaboard, interstate trade, as well as intrastate trade. The ship building trade spawned merchandising and local businesses. It became the base for attracting budding entrepreneurs, corporations, and all of the professions. It provided a strong basis for science-related and engineering industries that lasted centuries including E.I. duPont de Nemours, Hercules, Inc. and ICI, inc.

In the past, Delaware has competed successfully and worked collaboratively with her sister states to share opportunities within the shipping industry. Now, the State of Delaware finds itself in an existential situation. Because the perception of the economic and political leadership in New Jersey and Pennsylvania has become so myopic and self serving a collaborative, cooperative approach cannot be conceived nor structured.

The very fact that Mr. Harris has had to press, alone, through governmental entities, state political cabals, and now regional political barriers stands as recognition of the value of the Delaware proposal. Shipping has long been the basis of our economy. If it is destroyed there will be no basis upon which to build and ,yes, Pennsylvania and New Jersey will suffer from this downturn too.

Prior to Mr. Harris' concept for Delaware, neither Pennsylvania, nor New Jersey had any interest in expanding the scope of services in Delaware. They have expressed zero interest in collaborating with Delaware thus far. Now, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, the objective of Pennsylvania and New Jersey is to steal the entire opportunity for themselves.

The ingenuity of how Mr. Harris conceptualized and developed this idea for the Wilmington Port is indicative of the skill and wisdom that will be applied in implementing these ideas. That unique quality cannot be stolen or achieved by political pressure.

This project cannot be developed, cannot be implemented anywhere but Delaware, at the direction of Mr. Ronald Harris. We seek your solid support to bring his plan, as conceived, to Delaware, and Delaware alone. Anything other than this plan, as originally conceived, will fall far short of the high mark of achievement that Mr. Harris has originally conceived. It will clearly benefit Delaware and the surrounding region, if implemented as originally designed.

We trust that given independent contemplation and exercise, you will realize this and vote to support Mr. Harris' plan as originally put forth for Delaware.

Sincerely,

Alton D. Williams and Bonita B. Williams, Esq.

**Foust Construction and Development Corporation**