



DELAWARE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
COUNCIL 81.org AFL-CIO

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November 13, 2020

Secretary Shawn Garvin
Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control (DNREC)
Richardson and Robbins Building
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to you on behalf of the 6,000 members of AFSCME Council 81. Members who represent residents of the state of Delaware and work for the State of Delaware, Cities of Wilmington, Smyrna, New Castle, Newark and many others, the University of Delaware and Delaware State University and all three counties. We want to be on record in support of the Diamond State Port Corporation (DSPC) permit application to develop a new Container Cargo port at the Edgemoor site. As you're aware, the development of this site is a key part to the "Port Expansion" project.

We stand with our sisters and brothers of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) who spearheaded the Port Expansion project whose primary purpose was to save and expand the shipping industry in Delaware, which also meant saving jobs for ILA and creating new jobs. In the current economy, creating new jobs and saving current jobs must be at the forefront of every decision we make.

As the shipping industry, worldwide, makes changes to keep up with the current demand, including the expansion of the Panama and Suez canals, Delaware cannot be left behind. We must continue to be the First State and continue to change with the times. This includes ensuring that the Edgemoor Port Expansion project gets the full green light from you and your team. Without this expansion, the shipping industry will find another port in another state that will expand and change with the industry, and will cost Delaware, not only in thousands of jobs, but will cost Delaware's already fragile economy.



The City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware, cannot afford to lose the tax income, the business revenue, and the jobs that losing the shipping industry would cause. It is for these reasons that we are urging you, your team and the state to approve the permit applications for DSPC to expand the container cargo port at the Edgemoor site.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out at 302-323-2121 or via email at MBegatto@council81.org.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Begatto". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael A. Begatto

Executive Director

AFSCME, Council 81