



City of Wilmington

Dr. Hanifa Shabazz
City Council President

Louis L. Redding City/County Building
800 N. French Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801-3537

phone (302) 576-2140
fax (302) 571-4071
www.WilmingtonDE.gov

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

Dear Secretary Garvin:

On behalf of the full body of the 107th Session of Wilmington City Council, I submit this correspondence to offer backing and provide documentation of this legislative body's full support of the Diamond State Port Corporation (DSPC) permit application to develop a new Container Cargo Port at the Edgemoor site, which is widely viewed as an essential component of the "Port Expansion" initiative.

I have been in close communications with the International Longshoremen's Association, whose headquarters has long been in my home district in the City of Wilmington. I am also aware, as a lifelong Wilmingtonian, 12-year Council Representative of the 4th District and now, as President of Council, that the ability of the Port of Wilmington to continue to contribute to the local and regional economy is absolutely essential to the vitality of the Port of Wilmington and the business it is capable to attract and secure in the years to come. It is estimated that loss of the current 5,900 port employees, \$436 million in business revenue and \$41 million in State and Regional taxes – by NOT granting the DSPC permit could have catastrophic impacts, first on the City of Wilmington and its residents and businesses, but eventually also for the region.

On a larger scale, I have been made aware that the Port Expansion/ Edgemoor Project is an important component of rebuilding the loss of County- and State-wide, much-needed blue collar jobs. Dock work, jobs in the Building Trades and trucking career opportunities are all essential professions whose work is crucial to any community's growth. These are careers which currently and, in the future, will continue provide well-paid career opportunities to tens of thousands of Delawareans personal economic stability, which is the engine of our State's continued Educational, Public Health and Public Safety systems, which are essential to our thriving communities.

This legislative body would be remiss to not lend our voices, among the many that I am sure are encouraging you to do your important part to vet the permit request by the DSPC. As Delaware and the City of Wilmington continue to be considered as a thriving, relevant and respected City, amidst the well-appointed options available to corporations in search of up-to-date, technologically capable and responsive

communities and ports, where they may choose to do business, I can't find one reason that this expansion should not be approved. After learning that opportunities may have already been missed in lieu of the DSPC current permit request, our desire is to make clear that Wilmington City Council stands at the ready to support the forward-motion of this process in any way appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration of this body's input. We look forward to learning that the permit has been approved, soon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hanifa Shabazz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "H".

Hanifa Shabazz, President
Wilmington City Council