

**Commissioners of Pilotage
Port of Georgetown
Post Office Box 1183
Georgetown, South Carolina 29442**

April 9, 2009

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Jim DeMint
The Honorable James Clyburn
The Honorable Henry Brown
The Honorable Joe Wilson
The Honorable Gresham Barrett
The Honorable Bob Inglis
The Honorable John Spratt

Members of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation:

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Georgetown and the Georgetown Legislative Delegation respectfully request that you strongly support efforts to direct funding to the Charleston District Corps of Engineers Operations & Maintenance Account to help maintain our currently authorized depth of 27 ft.

Maintenance Dredging Funds for the Georgetown Channel are crucial to the continued economic success of our port and community. Georgetown is a niche port which relies heavily on the ability of companies within close proximity of the facility to utilize it for import and export opportunities and these opportunities will not continue without adequate water depth to attract and properly service ships.

The \$1.6 M the Corps received in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill will be utilized to ready the dredge disposal site for the influx of material mined during maintenance of the channel and we thank you for your efforts to secure these funds.

Looking ahead, the Corps has stated that a total of \$9 M is needed to return the Georgetown Channel to its authorized depth necessary for safe ship transit and economic development success achieved through existing and new port contracts for the area.

Please take all necessary steps to support these funds being allocated to our Corps District in next year's Energy & Water Appropriations Bill and if funds are left unspent from the Stimulus Package allocated to the US Army Corps of Engineers, please try to secure those funds for Georgetown as well because our project is authorized, permitted and shovel ready.

Sincerely,

Gillespie G. Boyd
Chairman

Rep. Vida Miller
Chairman
Georgetown Legislative Delegation