



September 3, 2014

Port Canaveral

Governor Rick Scott
State of Florida

Port Citrus

The Capitol, 400 South Monroe
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Port Everglades

Dear Governor Scott:

Port of Fernandina

As you reach the end of your first term as Governor, we wanted to take this moment to thank you for your consistent commitment to Florida's economy through your championship of Florida's seaports and maritime workers. As you know, the jobs of 680,000 Floridians are supported by maritime activity occurring at our seaports -- moving millions of cruise passengers and over 105 million tons of international and domestic cargo. Your leadership has helped us maintain and grow these high-paying blue-collar jobs in Florida.

Port of Fort Pierce

Port of Jacksonville

Your actions as Governor are unprecedented in Florida's maritime history. One of the first steps you took as Governor of this great state was to promote our maritime infrastructure and private sector industry by repealing an outdated and duplicative Florida credentialing law that negatively affected Florida's ability to grow commerce. This law was a precursor to robust federal credential regulations on our nation's seaports and previous efforts to repeal the law had been unsuccessful. In fact, longshoremen, truckers and other port workers had been working to repeal the law for years prior to you becoming Governor. This repeal alone saved Florida workers millions of dollars and demonstrated to international businesses everywhere that Florida was the place to conduct maritime business free of undue and duplicative regulations.

Port of Key West

Port Manatee

PortMiami

However, it is your efforts to invest in Florida freight mobility infrastructure that will truly shape Florida's economic future. Over the past four years, you have championed the efforts to invest over \$700 million in priority infrastructure projects that will enable Florida to capture growing cargo markets in the United States and Latin America. This amount exceeds any other investment made by previous administrations, and has already attracted the attention of maritime businesses and shipping companies around the world. Florida is now seen as a leader in freight mobility development in the U.S.

Port of Palm Beach

Port of Panama City

Port of Pensacola

We applaud you for your efforts to change the economic development landscape of the state of Florida. Under your administration, Florida has become the international trade pier for the U.S. reaching every corner of the globe. Florida is not only the primary destination point for the tourists of the world, but will soon become the primary cargo shipping point for the Americas and beyond. Thank you for everything you have done for the 680,000 Floridians that are employed by the growing commercial activities at Florida's seaports and the Florida families that depend on the efficient and effective flow of commercial goods throughout our state.

Port of St. Petersburg

Port of Port St. Joe

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Doug Wheeler, President and CEO
Florida Ports Council

Port Tampa Bay