

[Letters to the Editor](#)

Give us federal funds to dredge Port of Miami

Earlier this month, The Miami Herald reported that New Jersey Gov. Christie is rejecting \$3 billion in federal aid meant to improve rail infrastructure between New York City and the Garden State. The governor said that one of the reasons he wanted to turn back the funds was because there was a lack of local matching resources to fund the rail link.

The World Trade Center Miami has an idea for use of these federal resources. By using a mere fraction of these returned funds, Washington can create more than 33,000 new jobs by completing the Port of Miami Deep Dredge. A deeper port will enable the Port of Miami to attract twice the amount of cargo during the next 10 years.

What makes our project different from the New Jersey rail project is that the port already has its local funds for the dredge project committed and in place. Last week, Miami-Dade County passed an \$80 million bond issuance to fund the local share of the project -- we are ready to go to work on the project. Furthermore, our county and state have partnered to build a \$1 billion tunnel to I-395 *and* a \$22.7 million TIGER II grant was awarded in October to return rail service to the port.

All that remains to be completed in preparation for the new, super Post-Panamax ships that will soon traverse an expanded Panama Canal is to dredge our harbor to 50 feet.

Washington should invest \$75 million in the Deep Dredge, a project that is already authorized by Congress and recognized as a project of national significance.

We urge the federal government to invest \$75 million for the federal share of the Miami Deep Dredge and create thousands of new jobs and a lasting legacy for 2014 and beyond. The opportunity is ours to lose.

CHARLOTTE GALLOGLY, president, World Trade Center Miami, Miami

Read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/12/03/1954920/give-us-federal-funds-to-dredge.html#ixzz173cWnGJt> 

