

OPINION

JOHN S. KNIGHT (1894-1981)

MR. PRESIDENT

DEEP DREDGE = 33,000 NEW JOBS



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THE READERS' FORUM

Miami's port needs millions for dredging

South Florida is sending an SOS to the White House. The Port of Miami needs the Deep Dredge. And the clock is ticking.

A broad-based coalition of business and civic leaders have put the project to deepen the port's waters to 50 feet at the top of Miami-Dade County's priority list for infrastructure investments.

The Deep Dredge is needed to accommodate the new gener-

ation of cargo ships that will pass through an expanded Panama Canal beginning in 2014.

Enabling the much-larger vessels to offload at our port is critical in ensuring our competitiveness and enabling the Port of Miami to double its cargo traffic over the next decade.

Most important, the Deep Dredge translates into new, well-paying, permanent jobs for our community. Economic impact

studies show up to 33,000 jobs would be created statewide due to increased international trade and commerce if Miami is able to capitalize on its locale as the closest East Coast port to the canal.

President Obama is visiting South Florida Oct. 11. We need to send a clear message: South Florida's business and civic leaders do not agree on everything, but this is a project that has broad

support from all sectors of our community.

We are asking for an investment of \$75 million in federal matching funds to move the project forward. Time is running out. Dredging must begin next year if we are to meet the 2014 deadline.

Mr. President: We need the Deep Dredge.

- CARLOS ALVAREZ, mayor, Miami-Dade County, Miami