



Office of the Chair
Chairman Joe A. Martinez
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

January 3, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully urge you, on behalf of Miami-Dade County, to include the Port of Miami *Deep Dredge* Project in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Budget to secure the federal funding necessary to complete this congressionally-authorized project by 2014 when the expanded Panama Canal opens. Funding the *Deep Dredge* is a clear demonstration of the commitment your administration and other leaders across our nation have made to job creation as a cornerstone to economic recovery and prosperity.

The Port of Miami is the only authorized port in the East Coast that can complete dredging to 50 feet by 2014, thereby allowing it to accommodate the additional vessels that will traverse the expanded Canal. With completion of the *Deep Dredge*, the Port will accommodate the larger, Post-Panamax vessels, allowing the Port to grow jobs by 3% a year and double cargo in 10 years. Currently, the Port of Miami supports 176,000 jobs and \$17 billion annually – and this investment of \$75 million by will allow us to create over 30,000 jobs and increase commerce exponentially, which is especially important in a state that is currently suffering 12% unemployment.

Failure to fund the *Deep Dredge*, will force the use of foreign transshipment hubs. Over a brief period of time, these transshipment hubs will be in position to erode Florida's heavily export-oriented trade with Latin America and the Caribbean.

To further discuss this project of national significance, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you or Ms. Valerie Jarrett, your Senior Advisor and Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, and the Port of Miami management team. Inclusion of the *Deep Dredge* in your FY 2012 Budget is crucial and I look forward to working with you to bring about an economic renaissance to our nation.

With assurances of my highest consideration,


Joe A. Martinez
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

c: Honorable Members of Miami-Dade Congressional Delegation
Honorable Mayor Carlos Alvarez
Honorable Members Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners
Bill Johnson, Director, Port of Miami