



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CARLOS ALVAREZ
MAYOR

October 4, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Miami-Dade County is ready to be the catalyst for new international trade opportunities and 33,000 new jobs in the State of Florida—but we need your support. On behalf of our 2.5 million residents, I am writing to urge your support of our efforts to deepen the Port of Miami's waters to -50 feet. This project, which we call the *Deep Dredge*, will allow our port to accommodate the much larger and deep-draft vessels that will soon pass through the expanded Panama Canal.

Like mayors across the nation, my goals for Miami-Dade County begin with the creation of jobs for now and for the future. Economic impact studies show the *Deep Dredge* has the capacity to create 33,000 well-paying jobs and ensure our port's continued role as the cargo gateway to Latin America.

In South Florida's diverse community, this project has united civic and business leaders in broad support from every sector of our community. Quite simply, we believe it is one of the most important infrastructure investments in the nation. No other such project provides a better return on federal dollars spent.

Our county is asking for an investment of \$75 million in federal matching funds, which, if included in the next federal budget, would move this Congressionally-authorized project forward to allow for completion by 2014 - the scheduled date for the opening of the expanded Panama Canal. As the closest U.S. port to the Panama Canal, the Port of Miami is uniquely positioned to benefit; more importantly, the entire region would be open to new trade opportunities.

The National Export Initiative calls for the doubling of exports to create two million jobs. We believe a key element needed to meet this goal is the funding of maritime infrastructure projects, such as deepening the Port of Miami's waters, enabling vessels with larger capacities to unload at ports along the Eastern Seaboard. If the Port of Miami does not deepen its waters, additional cargo passing through an expanded Panama Canal may well go to deepwater ports outside the U.S., such as the Bahamas. This would be a tremendous blow to the U.S. economic security.

I would like to invite you to visit the Port of Miami during your next trip to Florida and see firsthand our cargo business and the many jobs it supports. Your support for this project of national significance is paramount, and we look forward to working with you to rebuild the national economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos Alvarez", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Carlos Alvarez
Mayor