



ST. JAMES STEVEDORING COMPANY, LLC

**9114 STEVEDORING ROAD
CONVENT, LA 70723
TELEPHONE (225) 562-3919
FAX (225) 562-3515
E-MAIL: jcrane@sjstevedore.com**

**Congressman Cedric Richmond
2nd Louisiana Congressional District**

June 25, 2012

Re: Deepening of the Mississippi River to 50 feet

Dear Congressman Richmond:

I am one of the owners of St. James Stevedoring Company; we have operations on the lower Mississippi and employ about 250 workers, all in Louisiana. Our business is loading and unloading of ships carrying bulk cargoes. I'm also part owner of St. James Technology, a Louisiana based technology development company and recent winner of the Louisiana Technology Council award for technology. This company is developing technologies which are currently being used both in the US and foreign countries.

I learned yesterday that you are planning on submitting a bill which will provide a mechanism for the Federal Government to fully fund the dredging of the Mississippi River to 50 feet.

This is a jobs creation issue and I want to let you know of my support.

I know you to be a supporter of the waterway system who is knowledgeable about the number of direct and indirect Louisiana jobs which depend on the Mississippi River. Because of the current draft restrictions we are losing jobs both to other states and to foreign countries.

Recently it was announced that a major company had committed \$140,000,000 to the expansion of a coal terminal in Houston. This expansion will take tons of export coal from Louisiana and with them jobs. Exxon and Shell recently announced major expansions to their Texas refineries. Had the Mississippi River been able to offer the ability to bring in vessels to 50

feet I have no doubt the calculation of desirability of locating in Louisiana would have been different.

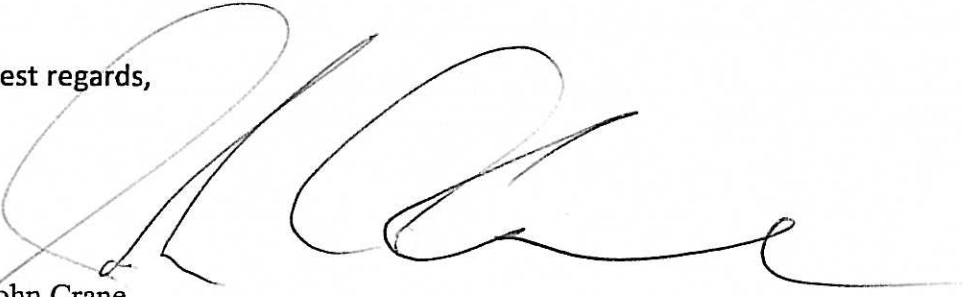
In 2015 the expanded Panama Canal will be open with a draft of 15.2 meters -50 feet. Our international competitors in places like Colombia already have ports capable of meeting this draft. If our exporting industries are not able to provide the same freight economics afforded by fully loading vessels to meet Panama even more US jobs will go overseas.

These are just a few of many examples which could be named because we don't have the draft to load ships to their full capacity.

I'm currently working with a group of individuals and industry leaders who are seeking to build support for the deepening of the Mississippi River. I can tell you that as I talk to business leaders the recognition of the value of deepening the Mississippi to the creation jobs is strongly agreed. For Louisiana it is critical if we are to maintain our position as the premier bulk port for the United States.

If there is anything I can do to help your efforts please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,



John Crane
St. James Stevedoring Company, LLC