

Brandi Robertson
TAC Chair

Beth Bucksot
TCC Chair



Chadwick Howard
TAC Vice-Chair

Chad Strawn
TCC Vice-Chair

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE PORTS
AUTHORITY'S GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE UNITED STATES FY2024 GRANT
PROGRAMS TO FUND MODERNIZATION AND REVITALIZATION OF BARGE
BERTHS AT THE PORT OF MOREHEAD CITY**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Ports Authority owns and operates an ocean port terminal in Morehead City, North Carolina in Carteret County, and the operation of such a terminal is a tremendous catalyst for economic growth and development throughout North Carolina and the region; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Ports Authority contributed more than \$16.2 billion in annual economic contribution to the state's economy constituted by goods moving through the port facilities and supported 88,200 full-time jobs at North Carolina businesses; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Ports Authority's strategic plan forecasts a doubling of the general terminal at the Port of Morehead City over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, Nutrien is the Port of Morehead City's largest and most trusted port partner that moves nearly 800,000 tons of cargo via barge and vessel annually; and

WHEREAS, Nutrien is the largest producer of potash and the third largest producer of nitrogen fertilizer in the world with a phosphate operation in Aurora, North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, Nutrien's Aurora, North Carolina mine facility serviced by the Port of Morehead City is the largest integrated phosphate mining and chemical plant in the world and is the area's largest private employer, contributing approximately \$8 million in state and local taxes annually, and

WHEREAS, to continue servicing this important customer and accommodate its growing volumes at the Port of Morehead City, new barge berths are needed; and

WHEREAS, this investment will extend the life of the barge berths for fifty years, and

WHEREAS, this investment will allow Nutrien to continue serving worldwide customers via barge and keep cargo off highways and railroads, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Ports Authority is preparing a grant application for the United States's FY2024 grant programs to fund this important infrastructure at the Port of Morehead City, and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Down East Rural Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee supports the Modernization and Revitalization of the Barge Berths used by Nutrien at the Port of Morehead City.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Down East Rural Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee on January 30, 2024.



Brandi Robertson
Chair, DERPO Transportation Advisory Committee



Becca Eversole
Secretary, Down East Rural Planning Organization