



# NoPort News

A newsletter of the North Carolina International Terminal

*All the news that prints to fit.*

June 17, 2010

## ***Information? We Don't Need No Stinking Information***

In a recent round of visits to members of the General Assembly, seeking to bring some focus on the impending commitment of the State to the North Carolina International Terminal, we found two consistent themes in the responses:

- very little is known about the proposed container terminal and its costs, and
- the legislators look upon the proposed container terminal as a local issue, like a pothole.

Both responses are deeply troubling. The administration is poised to sign a letter of intent to commit the State become a sponsor and contributor to a process leading to an expensive (\$10 million) study of a stupendously costly (\$1.2 billion) dredging project to support a \$1.5 billion container terminal to facilitate the import of more goods from Asia to compete with North Carolina's products. This is not a commitment that should proceed without legislative oversight.

As for information, the North Carolina State Ports Authority provides only what it chooses. The Corps of Engineers, in charge of the dredging, provides nothing at all.

Our Web site ([www.noportsouthport.org](http://www.noportsouthport.org)) however, does have information. Hard information, engineering studies, obtained by discovery under the North Carolina Public Records law and the Federal Freedom of Information Act. Here is a sample, the cost estimate of CH2M Hill, Inc., consultants to the State Ports Authority and the US Army Corps of Engineers:

Terminal development and construction	\$1,503,000,000
Highway improvements	261,000,000
Railroad improvements	73,000,000
Channel dredging (State share)	<u>720,000,000</u>
Total	\$2,557,000,000

And is this a local issue? Hardly. The \$2.5 billion State expense would be ponied up by taxpayers throughout the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountain regions. Many of those taxpayers have been and will be put out of work and out of business by the influx of cheap Asian imports, whose low prices are reduced even more by the subsidy that the State Ports Authority eagerly promotes.

This is a State matter. A \$2.5 billion dollar expense looming in the future, when our State government is facing a budget shortfall that can only be met by cutting vital education and health services, the very essence of the State's duty to its populace.

**NO PORT Southport NC, Inc.**

**Post Office Box 10062**  
[www.noportsouthport.org](http://www.noportsouthport.org)

**Southport, NC 28461**