



NoPort News

A newsletter of the North Carolina International Terminal

All the news that prints to fit.

August 1, 2010

If anything, it has strengthened our resolve to move forward.

–Tom Eagar, CEO, North Carolina State Ports Authority.

On Hold? Or Not?

On July 21, after a short period in which all of the communities of the lower Cape Fear adopted resolutions opposed to the North Carolina International Terminal, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation preventing the use of State funds for the project, and Congressman Mike McIntyre announced his opposition to the terminal, the North Carolina State Ports Authority issued a statement that it: “is placing the proposed NC International Terminal project on hold.”

The Ports Authority is not doing that. Consider these:

- At the board of directors meeting on July 23, Carl Stewart, Chairman, in somber tones as if sitting at the bedside of a sick friend, expressed his sadness at recent events but assured the directors that he remained “committed to creation of a new international container terminal in North Carolina.” He believes the Southport site is “excellent, the best site we can find.” The directors uttered not a word.
- Tom Eagar, the CEO of the State Ports Authority, said at that meeting that the Ports Authority would “regroup” and “execute in a more efficient manner.” In statements to the *State Port Pilot* and the *Star-News*, Mr. Eagar expressed his determination to remedy failures in promoting the project to the affected communities and in Raleigh.
- This past week, the State Ports Authority announced to employees a substantial reorganization designating key people to “work closely with me to actively engage local, State and Federal leadership, economic development and other business groups, as well as the residents of North Carolina, to communicate the significance of the jobs, personal income and tax revenues that vibrant ports bring to their communities and State.”
- The State Ports Authority has engaged Capstrat, a well-connected communications and public relations firm in Raleigh, in a three-year contract at \$375,000 per year.

The State Ports Authority survives by convincing the General Assembly to provide funds from time to time, because the ports do not pay their own way. They are skilled lobbyists, with full-time staff devoted to that task. Resources, while not unlimited, are far more than can be mustered by a small grass roots organization.

A sleeping giant has been aroused.

NO PORT Southport NC, Inc.

Post Office Box 10062
www.noportsouthport.org

Southport, NC 28461