

September 10, 2025

Council President J.P. Morrell
Council Vice President Helena Moreno
New Orleans City Council
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Re: No. R-25-463

Dear Council President Morrell and Council Vice President Moreno,

As members of the business community, we ask that you reconsider the resolution opposing the Alabo Street Wharf project and the request for it to be moved to an alternative site. As entities and organizations dedicated to driving growth and prosperity in New Orleans, we are concerned that this action not only jeopardizes a single project, but also reinforces the idea that New Orleans is not a place to build and grow. This perception threatens to discourage responsible investment, limit job creation, and slow the economic momentum our city needs.

The Alabo Street Wharf and surrounding rail infrastructure have been an economic asset to the City, the State and the Port of New Orleans for over one hundred years, since 1921. They are important infrastructure for our region and should be utilized for their highest and best use.

To be clear, concerns from residents must always be heard and addressed. That said, the Alabo Street Wharf project has been clouded by misinformation and has been mischaracterized in recent months. The facts are:

- The project is not a grain elevator nor long-term storage terminal; rather, it is a state-of-the art, modern organic transloading facility designed for short-term transfer of regulated and certified organic agricultural products such as soybeans, peas, and wheat
- The operation will incorporate advanced dust-control and pest-mitigation systems, voluntary air monitoring, and operational safeguards that reduce impacts on nearby neighborhoods
- Train service - which has been supported since 1978 - will be limited to one train per day during daylight hours, with a maximum of ten rail cars, walked at 5mph
- Economically, the project is expected to generate 17 new jobs in the Lower Ninth Ward and up to 34 new indirect jobs, as well as over 150 additional construction jobs. In addition, this project will generate over \$1.1M in new tax revenue for the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana over the next decade

Of greatest concern, the unintended consequences of Resolution No. R-25-463 could extend beyond this project. By advancing measures that discourage investment and delay responsible economic activity, New Orleans risks projecting a political environment that signals to business and industry that they are not welcome here. This perception undermines confidence in our market, deters new employers, and costs our region jobs, tax revenue, and opportunities for growth. The ultimate result will be population loss.

We ask that you partner with us and provide bold political leadership to facilitate securing projects of this nature. As we work to grow international trade, foreign direct investment, and new jobs, we are competing with other Gulf Coast ports for the same dollars, cargo and jobs. In our experience, companies make critical decisions about where to expand based not only on advantageous infrastructure and location but also based on a reliable political environment characterized by positive, consistent growth policies and leadership. We fear that the resolution being offered for consideration by the City Council goes in the opposite direction.

New Orleans has a chance to demonstrate that it is open for business, committed to innovation, and capable of marrying economic opportunity with community responsibility. We hope you will join us in sending that message.

Respectfully,

Capt. Michael T.D. Miller
Associated Branch Pilots

Sean Duffy
Big River Coalition & Duffy Maritime Consultants

Arnold Baker
Black Marlin Marine

Anthony Almerico
Cooper Mooring

Capt. E. Michael Bopp
Crescent River Port Pilots' Association

Ben Morvant
Crescent Towing

Hans Luetkemeier
Dupuy Group

Deanna Rodriguez
Entergy New Orleans

Jeffrey Louis
Freedom Intermodal Tank Services, LLC

Michael Hecht
GNO, Inc.

Mayra Pineda
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana

Kristi App

International Freight Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of New Orleans

William App, Jr.

JW Allen & Co., Inc.

Jack Jensen

Jensen Companies

David Kearney

Kearney Companies

David St. Etienne

Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc.

Capt. Ron Branch

Louisiana Maritime Association

Greg Rusovich

Transoceanic Development Co.

Brett Bourgeois

New Orleans Board of Trade

Sandra Lindquist

New Orleans Chamber of Commerce

Tom Saunders

Ports America

Hatson Harmon

Propeller Club

Steve Mosher

QSL Americas

David Jensen

TCI Packaging, LLC

Katie Jensen

Triton Stone Group

Harrison Crabtree

World Trade Center of New Orleans