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September 13, 2013

**Official Statement from Gulf Coast Business Council Chairman Ron Peresich**

## **Gulf Coast Business Council Supports Port of Gulfport Restoration Project and its Long Term Impact on the Gulf Coast**

“It is essential to keep in mind the complexity of large capital investments which are foundational and require long term vision,” said Ron Peresich, Chairman of the Gulf Coast Business Council. “The clear objectives established by the Governor for execution just a year ago are showing real, tangible progress as evidenced by the Port’s recent long-term lease agreement with DuPont, which includes an \$80 million capital investment, Island View’s announcement of a \$50 million renovation of their hotel along with significant progress in construction activity. The future of the Port is too important to be sidetracked by short-term events.

“The Gulf Coast Business Council – comprised of business leaders throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast – appreciates the importance of making long term investment in key infrastructure assets. Modernizing the Port of Gulfport is important to long term recovery and is a key component of a diverse and sustainable regional economy.”

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