



# impact.

Summer 2011

Why deepening Charleston Harbor is critical to the long-term vitality of the Aiken Region.

## Harbor Deepening: We've fought so hard to regain momentum for our port. Your involvement is needed to keep it going.

While it is natural to think of our ports as coastal assets, the fact is port activity has profound impacts in every region of South Carolina.

From the goods we buy at the store, to the jobs of our neighbors and family members, to investments in our communities, ports are part of our everyday lives.

The South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) was founded to foster economic development through international trade at our public seaports. That mission is being fulfilled. The numbers speak for themselves. Today, port operations in the state deliver nearly \$45 billion of economic impact to South Carolina each year. The port is linked to 260,800 jobs and \$11.8 billion in wages annually statewide.

**BUILDING MOMENTUM.** Business at the Port of Charleston has been on the upswing. Container volume rose 17% in 2010 and continues to climb. The East Coast – and particularly the Southeast – is forecast to be a vital long-term growth zone for both manufacturing and population. The Port of Charleston's proximity to this dynamic market makes it a valuable asset to the nation and represents a tremendous opportunity for our state; but substantial investment

is required to make the most of this opportunity.

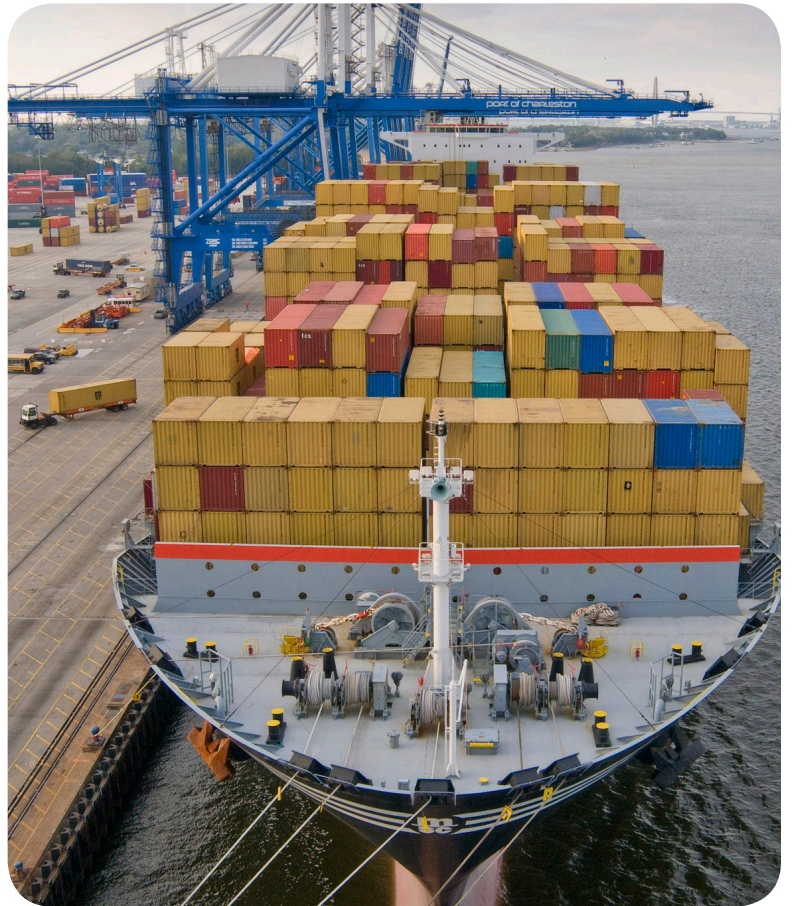
To support business growth and the state's economic future, the SCSPA is undertaking an aggressive, 10-year, \$1.3 billion capital investment program targeted for new and existing terminals, new equipment, information systems upgrades, and other vital areas of need.

The largest aspect of the capital program is a new, 280-acre container terminal on the former Navy Base. The terminal will increase

Charleston's container-handling capacity by 50% and serve customer needs well into the future. Site preparation work and construction on the site is ongoing, with the terminal's 171-acre first phase slated to open in 2018, or sooner as needed.

**ECONOMY OF SCALE.** As South Carolina prepares its dockside infrastructure for the future, deepening our harbor will allow our port to deliver best-in-region access to global markets...a critical competitive advantage.

Ships are getting bigger, deeper and wider in order to maximize economies of scale. While the biggest ships on the East Coast already call Charleston, they can only move during high tide, when the harbor depth increases by up to six feet.



This tidally restricted operation will not serve the industry's future demand.

In 2014, an expanded Panama Canal will open for business ushering even bigger ships direct to the East Coast with greater frequency. Unrestricted access for these big ships will attract the world's leading ocean carriers and inspire new

investment from firms looking to ever more efficiently serve U.S. and global demand. This decisive competitive advantage will bring great benefits to our state and the hundreds of in-state companies that rely on trade.

**YOUR SUPPORT.** In addition to the economic benefits a vibrant port brings to the entire state, the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project is the best value in the region for our scarce federal dollars. In fact, in the reconnaissance study published in 2010, the Corps of Engineers concluded, "Preliminary studies at other nearby harbors show that Charleston Harbor would probably be the cheapest South Atlantic harbor to deepen to 50 feet."

While funding has been designated by the Corps in fiscal year 2011 to continue the process, the project still needs funding for fiscal year 2012 and in subsequent budget cycles. Securing the funding for this vital project will require the long-term commitment of support from our allies across the state. Join us in supporting our port's – and our state's – future.

### MY REGION

## Aiken Area Benefits

South Carolina ports generate powerful impacts that reach inland to touch every county and region in the state. Here in the Aiken area our ports mean:

**\$1.8 Billion**  
annual economic impact

**9,600 Jobs**

**\$406 Million**  
paid in salaries and wages

"We see the deepening of the Port of Charleston as an opportunity for continued growth. The deepening will allow the Port of Charleston to be a gateway to new markets in Latin America, Australia and the Far East. This allows MTU and our customers the options and versatility we are looking for, both now and into the future."

- Tim Brittingham  
Sr. Manager, Production Logistics  
MTU Detroit Diesel, Graniteville

### A sample port-related firms in the Aiken Area:

- Kimberly Clark Corp.
- Clariant Corp.
- Parkdale Mills
- AGY Holding Corp.

For additional information, contact the SCSPA's Public Relations Office: 843-577-8121  
askipper@scspa.com  
www.scspa.com