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September 1, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence K. Grooms
Attn: David J. Owens
The Senate of South Carolina
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator Grooms,

I am pleased to report that the relationship between Maersk Line and the South Carolina State Ports Authority has progressed quite well over the last year. We are about to sign a new contract with the port enabling the long-desired conversion of the Wando Welch Terminal to common use.

I am writing to express the position of Maersk Line relative to the rail discussion concerning intermodal rail access on the Charleston Peninsula. As you are aware, Maersk Line is the largest container shipping company in North America and is heavily dependent on the services of Class 1 railroads to move containerized freight efficiently. It is vitally important for the Port of Charleston and Maersk Line that quality on-dock rail access exists for both Class 1 railroads serving Charleston to ensure its competitive future relative to other major ports. During the development of our marine terminal, APM Terminals in Portsmouth, VA, such equal dual access did not originally seem possible. However, in the end it was achieved through the cooperative efforts of both railroads and the unwillingness of stakeholders to accept less than this as a solution. We believe that the same can be achieved in Charleston, to the significant benefit of the port and its customers, if both railroads are given a clear message by your oversight committee that this must be achieved.

I wish you well in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. White".

Michael J. White
President, North America
Maersk Line

