



Gregory G. Turner  
William G. Roden, Jr.

William D. Messer  
Matthew L. Rigby

**Palm Beach Harbor Pilots' Association**

200 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B  
Riviera Beach, Florida 33404-6946  
Office (561) 845-2628 FAX (561) 845-2644  
Email: [PBPilots@aol.com](mailto:PBPilots@aol.com)

October 1, 2011

Dear TIGER Grant Administrators:

The Port of Palm Beach is a major commercial shipping hub, the fourth largest container port in Florida, and centrally located within the state. The Port is one of the few export ports left in Florida sending everything from yachts to sugar abroad. Unfortunately, as ships around the world continue to increase in size and the Panama Canal is widened to facilitate that trend, the Port lacks the berthing size to keep up with the longer and wider ships to export it's cargo. Economies of scale and efficiency demand that larger ships be used to transport cargo. The Port desperately requires the Slip 3 project in order to stay competitive and avoid being phased out.

Shipping is the safest, most economical, and most environmentally friendly method of moving cargo. Several benefits to the environment, safety, and economy occur when larger ships deliver their cargo to Palm Beach County instead of the southern ports of Miami and Fort Lauderdale. The Port of Palm Beach is adjacent to the Florida Inland Port Project reducing the amount of tractor-trailers on our highways. This prevents excess pollution, city congestion, fuel waste, and increases highway safety.

As Harbor Pilots, we must ensure the safety of all traffic into the port. Unfortunately, we routinely decline vessels that are too large to safely dock at the Port of Palm Beach. This scenario is becoming more and more frequent as ships get larger. The Port's largest cargo slip, Slip 3, is on the imminent verge of failing. Refurbishing Slip 3 will ensure its continued performance for the growing size of cargo ships as well as allow us to simultaneous berth two 90 ft. beam vessels. Not only is the Slip 3 project essential for us to grow, it is essential if we are to continue to maneuver the regular anticipated volume of cargo in and out of the Port.

Sea ports are the economic hubs of the world. Florida's economy, and hence the revenues of the United States Government would benefit tremendously with this long term investment in Slip 3 at the Port of Palm Beach. Without it, we face the possibility of losing our ability to sustain as a bulk cargo port within the modern shipping world.

Respectfully,  
Palm Beach Harbor Pilots' Association  
Captains:

Gregory G. Turner  
William G. Roden  
William D. Messer  
Matthew L. Rigby  
Reid Hansen