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March 7, 2025

Mr. Ricky Deloach, President  
International Longshoremen's Association 1475  
P.O. Box 1325  
Savannah, GA 31402

Dear Mr. Deloach, *Ricky*

On behalf of the Georgia Ports, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the members of ILA local 1475 for their many contributions to the Port of Savannah. There is no question that we have a great history together and we want to keep building on our partnership for many years to come. However, the port is at a crossroads and it's important we recognize our present and future challenges as well our collective accomplishments.

**Vessels at Anchor are a major issue for the Port of Savannah. The Savannah River cannot handle "two-way" vessel traffic for big ships and this is contributing to vessel delays. Additional Vessel Start times could help offset the impacts of the Savannah River.**

Our customers are growing impatient with "Vessels at Anchor" and the cargo delays that stem from vessels having to wait up to a week or more for a berth. In the last 2 months approximately 20 vessels have bypassed or "omitted" Savannah to avoid delays. Savannah bound cargo is being discharged in other ports. In addition to the vessels skipping Savannah, we know of customers routing their cargo through other ports to avoid delays.

The Georgia Ports is doing all we can to add more berths and improve the current restrictions we face with "one-way" river traffic for the Big Ships. On average, we lose 12- 15 hours between a vessel departure and the next vessel arrival because of the limitations of the Savannah River. We have begun the effort to create "passing lanes" and deepen the river, but this will take a number of years to complete. We are also planning to use Ocean Terminal as a Lay Berth but it's not the ultimate fix. We need the ILA's help in the form of additional Vessel Start Times to help turn vessels and reduce idle time.

Please find below a couple of key benefits of providing additional "start times". By no means is this an exhaustive list.

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+ Port of Savannah  
+ Port of Brunswick

- Additional vessel calls means additional man hours, assessments etc.
  - Had we had the ability to have the 0600 starts for the last four months, that would have added 750 gang hours on all the gangs we had ordered at 0700
- Our customers have really been impacted with the fog this past month and had we had more start times, we may have been able to reduce the ships at anchor number faster
- New start times fit with the tide cycle allowing us to work more vessels
  - The 2100 start time means we can finish a ship at 1700 and have another one starting at 2100 instead of missing the tide window and having to wait until the next day / tide cycle
- The customers themselves have asked for this to have more flexibility to help them maintain their schedules
- We know other ports already have these start times, and are using them as a competitive advantage over us

Thank you for your consideration in this very serious matter. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Griffith Lynch  
President & CEO