

## Resolution on Proposed Coal Ash Ban

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2021, the barge BRIDGEPORT, in route from Puerto Rico to Keystone Terminals in Jacksonville, Florida with a cargo of coal ash, began taking on water and was ultimately grounded approximately one nautical mile off the coast of Jacksonville on March 23, 2021;

WHEREAS, the cargo of coal ash was ultimately destined for disposal in a federally regulated facility in Folkston, Georgia;

WHEREAS, the removal of the barge and its cargo was overseen by the U.S. Coast Guard, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission;

WHEREAS, the removal operations took over three months before completion, during which a portion of the cargo leaked into the ocean and ocean floor, causing concern among the residents of Jacksonville and the beaches community;

WHEREAS, as a result of this incident some well-intentioned groups in the community seek a total ban on the importation of coal ash through any terminal, public or private, within the Port of Jacksonville;

WHEREAS, coal ash is a federally regulated commodity, with many beneficial uses such as concrete and sheet rock, and is regulated as a non-hazardous solid waste, which is the same clarification as household garbage;

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of tons of cargo, actually regulated as hazardous, are safely handled and transited through public and private terminals within the Port of Jacksonville, including explosive munitions handled through Naval Station Mayport and the U.S. Marines' terminal at Blount Island;

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2021, Governor DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1194 into law that limits the ability of local ballot initiatives to modify seaports operations;

WHEREAS, local restrictions upon federally regulated interstate commerce face additional scrutiny under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Port of Jacksonville is the No. 1 U.S. port handling trade with Puerto Rico;

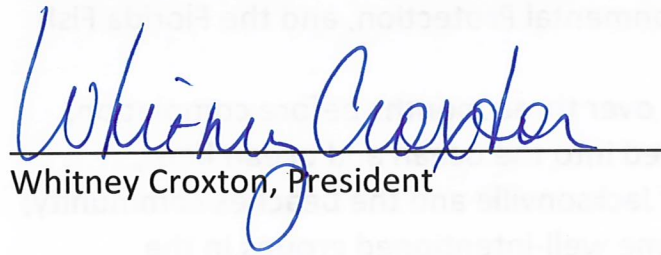
WHEREAS, the Port of Jacksonville supports more than 132,000 jobs and contributes \$27 billion to the regional economy every year; and

WHEREAS, the International Propeller Club of the United States – Port of Jacksonville is supportive of balanced efforts to conserve a healthy St. Johns River and surrounding coastline as a vital resource for recreation and commerce;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

The International Propeller Club of the United States – Port of Jacksonville, stands firmly in opposition to the proposed ban upon the importation of coal ash into any terminal, public or private, within the Port of Jacksonville, but welcomes a community discussion on balanced ways the strengthen the health of St. Johns River and surrounding coastline as a vital resource for recreation and commerce.

Adopted this 9 day of November, 2021.



Whitney Croxton, President