



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wilmington Chamber Expresses Support for Carolina Connector Intermodal Rail Terminal

Wilmington, N.C. —The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce announced its support today for building the Carolina Connector Intermodal Rail Terminal (or CCX) in Johnston County proposed by CSX, a leading supplier of rail-based freight transportation in North America. The CCX will position Eastern North Carolina as a major transportation hub in the South and create a competitive advantage for Eastern North Carolina. Locally, the terminal will benefit the North Carolina State Ports Authority by expanding market reach and lowering transportation costs for businesses that use the Port of Wilmington.

“This is an unprecedented project for the State with numerous benefits to our Ports and Southeastern North Carolina,” said Wilmington Chamber President & CEO Connie Majure-Rhett. “The Carolina Connector will improve rail capabilities by connecting Eastern North Carolina directly to CSX’s extensive rail network, which will have direct positive effects on businesses inside and outside our region that use our Ports.”

In addition, CSX has committed to establishing a premium shuttle service in the next four months between the Port of Wilmington and the Charlotte Intermodal Facility. This will provide an improved reach into the greater Charlotte market. Starting as a weekly unit train, this service will be expanded as volumes grow. The North Carolina State Ports Authority already operates a few of the least congested ports on the United States East Coast and the expanded use of the CSX network will further productivity and efficiency levels.

At intermodal rail terminals, freight containers carrying goods are transferred between trains and trucks, allowing for distribution to other markets. The CCX terminal proposed for Johnston County will provide an estimated 1,500 new jobs statewide, \$20 million in savings on state highway maintenance costs, and 717 million fewer truck miles on NC roads, reducing congestion and improving safety. Rail is four times more fuel efficient than trucks, making it the most environmentally friendly mode of land transportation. One freight train can carry the load of 280 trucks. It is estimated that the new facility could reduce carbon dioxide emissions in North Carolina by 400,000 tons. The terminal may also be a catalyst for economic growth in the region by attracting new manufacturing, distribution and industrial businesses.

CSX has expressed a commitment to invest \$150 million, the majority of funds needed to complete the terminal. Development of the CCX, however, is contingent upon securing an additional \$100 million through the State of North Carolina's Strategic Transportation Investment program. The Wilmington Chamber believes this public-private partnership will be highly beneficial to the State and, in particular, to the North Carolina State Ports Authority and our region's business community.

About the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is the largest membership-based business association in Southeastern North Carolina. The Chamber's mission is to ensure economic prosperity throughout our region. This is accomplished by: creating a diverse, inclusive organization that serves as a strong voice for businesses in the Greater Wilmington area; offering unique membership benefits, services and education; and challenging government officials to address long term community and business interests.

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