



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 19, 2016

### **Wilmington Chamber Applauds Decision to Create Carolina Connector Intermodal Rail Terminal**

Wilmington, N.C. —After being one of the first Chamber's in the state to announce support for the project in Johnston County in January 2016, the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce today applauded the decision to locate the Carolina Connector Intermodal Rail Terminal (or CCX) in Edgecombe County near Rocky Mount after the original site location became unfeasible.

“Creation of the Carolina Connector will have a positive impact in the area by generating more business for the State Port in Wilmington, and potentially leading to new business ventures in the area,” said Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Chairman Mitch Lamm, who attended Governor McCrory's press conference today. “Improving rail capabilities will help expand the Ports' market reach and lower transportation costs for those using the Port. This is very good news for Wilmington, as it will create a competitive advantage for the region.”

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 will process more than 260,000 containers per year initially.

CSX will invest \$160 million in the project, with the N.C. Department of Transportation contributing \$100 million for track improvements and terminal infrastructure through the state's new transportation funding formula. 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. The Chamber thanks and congratulates Ports Executive Director Paul Cozza—who serves on the Wilmington Chamber board of directors—for his leadership on this initiative.

***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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