

STATEMENT
MAYOR JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
FUNDS FOR HARBOR DEEPENING
FEBRUARY 8, 2012

"I thank President Obama, his Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for including \$2.5 million in their Work Plan for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2012 for the Charleston Harbor deepening project. This funding will enable us to continue the Feasibility Study, a required step in reaching our goal of a 50-foot harbor for the southeast here in Charleston. The opportunity to deepen the already deepest harbor in the region will allow us to accommodate the larger ships made possible by the Panama Canal expansion. We appreciate the work of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and our elected officials who are also working for these goals. The Charleston Harbor deepening project is a critical component for the continuing positive health of our local, state and regional economy.

"I was pleased to meet with and discuss this funding with President Obama and to also accompany State Ports Authority President and CEO Jim Newsome to meet with the Office of Management and Budget to impress upon them the importance of continued funding for this project. I am thankful and pleased that they heard our message about the importance of the Port of Charleston to our region's economy. President Obama has committed to doubling our nation's exports, and a 50-foot deep Charleston Harbor is a key piece of infrastructure to maintain the edge that our manufacturers and exporters need to compete in the global economy."