



Advocating responsible decisions to sustain the quality of life in coastal Georgia.

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February 23, 2016

Bill Compton
Coastal Region Commission
1181 Coastal Dr. SW
Darien, GA 31305

Re: Opposition to the proposed St. Marys Bargeport

Dear Sir:

Before any such proposal is considered, we firmly believe that the specific demands and uses for such a facility must be determined and thoroughly evaluated.

At the outset, we concur with Southern Environmental Law Center in their concerns about risks to freshwater and tidal wetlands, Woodstork habitat, and water quality (particularly related to stormwater runoff and toxic contaminants), as well as noise and air-quality associated with possible uses of the barge operations. The project is a potentially significant threat to surrounding quality of life.

To our knowledge, there are insufficient reasons to justify permitting the proposed “bargeport” and the costs therefore greatly outweigh any perceived benefits.

In general, given the history of such speculative projects, we are skeptical of ventures that promise much but often under-deliver, and which carry significant burdens on both taxpayers and the environment, while seldom being properly evaluated and held accountable to the public after permits are issued.

We therefore strongly urge full disclosure of the evaluation methods as well as related findings, legally binding agreements, and rigorous enforcement of permitting conditions if the project proceeds.

Respectfully,

David Kyler
Executive Director