

CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS



JOE S. FRANK  
MAYOR

May 19, 2009

Mr. Jerry A. Bridges  
Executive Director  
Virginia Port Authority  
600 World Trade Center  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-1679

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CenterPoint proposal for privatization of port operations. I have had the time to review a copy of the proposal dated March 30, 2009. Without going into great detail, although I would be glad to provide such if that were necessary, and after careful consideration, I offer the following concerns:

1. an entity outside of Virginia making critical decisions affecting the future and success of Virginia ports, and the possibilities of conflicts of interests as they manage and develop their business in other localities;
2. traffic and transportation impacts that would be incurred based on the proposals outlined—especially given the bleak future for transportation improvements here in Hampton Roads and Eastern Virginia;
3. revenues paid to each of the host cities should be equivalent to the taxes paid if the Port Authority was not a tax-exempt entity;
4. one or more local officials (mayors and/or city managers) should be a part of the evaluation team, particularly because of their knowledge of the conditions here in the region.

I very much appreciate your consideration of my concerns as deliberations of the proposal move forward. As I will be out of the office from May 21 through June 8, please contact Mr. Randy Hildebrandt at 926-8411 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Frank".

Joe S. Frank  
Mayor