

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2009

Mr. Thomas Welborn
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Dear Mr. Welborn,

PCS Phosphate Company, Inc. has had a significant and positive economic impact on Beaufort County and the State of North Carolina for the past forty years. PCS Phosphate is the largest private employer in the County, employing over 1,000 people, and in 2007 purchased \$148 million in materials from local distributors.

Not only is PCS Phosphate an important part of the local and state economy, good environmental stewardship is a core value of the company. As a leader in wetland mitigation, PCS Phosphate understands the value of wetlands to North Carolina's ecology, and, in fact, has an award-winning land reclamation program. Its goal is to recover phosphate with no net loss of wetland resources while protecting other aquatic resources. PCS Phosphate's management philosophy assures every North Carolinian that it will strive to protect the environment for current and future generations.

It is our understanding that this company's future is now in jeopardy due to delays in the mine continuation permitting process. We request your attention to this matter and hope the permitting decisions can be resolved as soon as possible.

As you know, PCS Phosphate began the permitting process over eight years ago with input from twelve federal, state, and local regulatory agencies. In May, the Army Corps of Engineers published the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the site and is currently drafting their Record of Decision. However, it is our understanding that certain agencies have indicated that even after eight years of review, they may elevate this issue to the federal level in Washington, D.C.

If the permitting decisions do not go forward in a timely manner, it would have a devastating economic effect on Beaufort County and the State of North Carolina. According to an East Carolina University economic impact study, because of the interrelationships that exist in the economy and the buying patterns of the affected consumers, the elimination of PCS Phosphate operations would result in a statewide loss of nearly 3,600 jobs and a corresponding drop in "Total Value Added" of \$797.4 million.

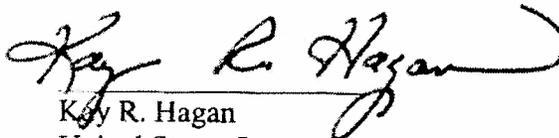
It is unacceptable that this permitting process has taken so long to date. It is important that the people of Beaufort County have resolution with regard to the operations at PCS Phosphate as

soon as possible. We are closely monitoring this situation and request that the decision making process continue as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Kara Weishaar with Senator Burr's office at (202) 228-2964.

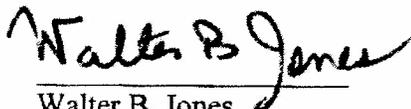
Sincerely,



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Kay R. Hagan
United States Senator



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



G. J. Butterfield
Member of Congress

CC: Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator