

News Release

For Immediate Release

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U.S. Great Lakes Delegation Bullish on Melford Terminal

Melford, Guysborough County, NS – A high-ranking delegation of government, business, shipping, and port representatives from Ohio is giving high marks to the Melford container terminal and logistics park.

The delegation toured the Strait of Canso site by air and water and had positive discussions with Melford International Terminal Inc. (MITI) representatives on July 2nd. The group included an influential Congresswoman, the President of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, along with representatives from the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and the shipping industry.

“Now more than ever, international transportation has to focus on efficiency,” said Marcy Kaptur, an Ohio Congresswoman who sits on the Transportation Committee of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. “That’s why the Melford opportunity is so attractive as a partnership to Toledo – moving containers from the first east coast gateway in Melford through the Saint Lawrence Seaway and overland through Toledo’s road and rail routes.”

“We see this as a tremendous opportunity to harness the promise of a feeder service for the growing Asian container traffic,” said James Hartung, President of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority. “Melford is ideally situated as the first point of entry for European and Asian containers and to move them through the Seaway to Great Lakes ports.”

“It was an extremely positive, energizing experience for all of us,” said Hugh Lynch, Chairman of Melford International Terminal Inc. “They were able to see firsthand the existing industrial activity in the Strait, the availability of land in our development, the lack of urban congestion, as well as the support of the people in the region. We hope in the weeks ahead to build on that momentum to form a strategic alliance to benefit both Nova Scotia and Ohio.”

“I believe the Melford Project has the potential to transform Toledo, indeed the entire Midwest,” says Lloyd A. Jacobs, President of the University of Toledo. “The University of Toledo is pleased to lend the support and expertise of Rich Martinko and our Intermodal Transportation Institute to this exciting project.”

“The Melford greenfield terminal offers unsurpassed location and enviable draft,” said Terry Johnson, Jr., Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. “It is the closest destination for ships plying the growing Asia-Europe-North America route and its deep draft (92 feet) and ice-free waters can accommodate efficiently the largest container ships afloat today. Feeder ships from Nova Scotia into the Great Lakes Seaway system will augment double stack rail service, providing a U.S.-Canadian market of 100 million consumers vital goods safely, economically, and in the most environmentally friendly manner.”

Toledo sits on the shores of Lake Erie, boasting an active port, strong rail and road connections throughout the United States. In a single day, goods can be moved from Toledo to 40 percent of the U.S. population.

MITI has also held a number of meetings with similar groups in Memphis and Cleveland, two other key transportation hubs in the U.S. MITI is developing a 315-acre deep-water container terminal, intermodal rail facility and 1500-acre logistics park at Melford on the Strait of Canso. The greenfield project is 100 percent privately-funded and investors are not seeking any money from taxpayers. As part of the project, a rail spur will be built, without public money. The project is currently awaiting environmental approval, expected later this year. Once regulatory approval is granted, construction will begin shortly afterward.

“We have the ability and the opportunity to start from scratch at Melford,” said Lynch. “We are going to build a state of the art container terminal and logistics park the way you would in 2010, not in 1950 or even 1980. The shipping industry has changed dramatically and we are seizing that opportunity.”

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