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PORT COMMISSION RECOGNIZES PIRTLE FOR SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN

FREEPORT, TX (June 18, 2021) – At the June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting, the Port Freeport Commission recognized Commissioner Shane Pirtle for his service as Chairman of the Port Commission since June 2019. Commissioner Pirtle was presented with a commemorative plaque on behalf of the Port Commission and Port Freeport staff.

During Commissioner Pirtle’s tenure as Chairman, Port Freeport has achieved the following accomplishments:

- Ensuring no disruption of port operations or services during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Supporting increased annual ship arrivals, up 10.3% from 2019 to 1,136 calls in 2020;
- Progressing Port Freeport’s national ranking to 15th for total foreign waterborne tonnage;
- Maintaining pledge to the taxpayers to hold the tax rate as indicated during the 2018 bond referendum election;
- Regarding advancing the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project,
 - In February 2020, being one of two seaports nationwide to secure a “new start” designation for commencement of construction along with securing \$19 million in federal funding in the USACE FY 2020 Work Plan for the Project;
 - Effective June 25, 2020, signing a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with USACE for the Project;
 - Securing a second round of federal funding for the Project in the USACE FY 2021 Work Plan for \$24.9 million (\$43.9 million received to date); and
 - On April 8, 2021, breaking ground on the Project, a historic milestone that will make Port Freeport the deepest port in the Gulf of Mexico;
- Regarding expanding the Port’s infrastructure and facilities to attract new business,
 - Growing a versatile fleet of roll-on/roll-off business at the Port;

- Approving a contract with McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. for Phase II of the expansion of the Velasco Container Terminal, which includes Berth 8, a 925-foot berth extension to accommodate additional container operations and post-Panamax gantry cranes;
- Approving a 2nd Lease Agreement with Vulcan Construction Materials to expand the company's footprint at the Port and construct an aggregate distribution facility on Parcel 14;
- Welcoming the M/V DOLE AZTEC on its maiden voyage to the United States for its new weekly service to Port Freeport, celebrating 38 years of partnership between the Port and Dole Fresh Fruit; and
- Entering a new partnership with CEMEX Servicios Logísticos and Union Pacific Railroad to transport liquid carbon dioxide from Port Freeport to Mexico.

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranked 6th in chemicals, 15th in foreign waterborne tonnage, and 26th in containers. A 2019 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 279,780 jobs and has a total economic output of \$149 billion. Port Freeport serves Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., CEMEX, CMA CGM, Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products, Exxon Mobile, Freeport LNG, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Mammoet, MEGlobal, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallalum Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy, Wallenius Wilhelmsen, and Vulcan Materials Company.

Port Freeport is committed to keeping the local community informed of our operations and results. If you have questions or comments about this announcement, please email or call Jessica Follett, Public Affairs Manager.

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PHOTO OUTLINE: Port Freeport Commissioner Shane Pirtle