



Cape Fear Watchdog\$

## Walter Dalton wouldn't pursue new deepwater port if elected

Thursday, July 19, 2012 at 11:45 by Pat Gannon

Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton, the Democratic candidate for governor, issued a statement today saying he would not pursue the construction of a deepwater port in Brunswick County if elected.

Dalton said the project doesn't have the support of the congressional delegation or the General Assembly. He also noted that it would cost as much as \$5 billion or \$6 billion and take many years to build. Without support from state and federal lawmakers, there is little hope of constructing such a facility, Dalton said.

"For these reasons, I do not plan to pursue a deepwater port in Brunswick County as governor," he said in the statement. "However, I will focus our efforts on improving our existing ports and expanding exports by creating niche markets, particularly in the areas of agribusiness and the reset of military equipment."

Dalton added: "I believe our ports have great upside potential as we move forward, but we have to be very focused and smart on how they are used to the best benefit of our citizens and the best benefit of commerce in North Carolina."

Watchdog\$ has an email out to the campaign of Republican gubernatorial candidate Pat McCrory for his position on the issue.



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## Pat McCrory doesn't want a new deepwater port either

Thursday, July 19, 2012 at 5:53 by Pat Gannon

Republican gubernatorial candidate Pat McCrory doesn't want to build a new deepwater port in Brunswick County either, his campaign said in a prepared statement Thursday afternoon.

Democratic candidate Walter Dalton's campaign issued a statement earlier in the day saying he wouldn't support the construction of a new port if elected.

McCrorry also criticized Democrats for spending \$30 million on the land along the Cape Fear River near Southport, then attempting to study the port's feasibility after the fact. The N.C. State Ports Authority purchased roughly 600 acres for about \$30 million in the mid-2000s, believing it was an ideal location for the once-proposed N.C. International Terminal.

"Questions of feasibility should have been asked before we wasted millions to buy the land and conduct studies," according to the statement released by McCrorry press secretary Ricky Diaz.

According to the statement, McCrorry has long believed that the marketplace doesn't support a new port.

"The deepwater port issue has become an Easley-Perdue-Dalton boondoggle and serves as yet another example of broken government and why new leadership from the outside is needed to fix it," the statement said.

As governor, McCrorry would also create and implement a market-based strategy for existing ports in Morehead City and Wilmington "before any more taxpayer money is wasted," the statement said.

McCrorry and Dalton are vying for the governor's seat in the November election after Democratic Gov. Bev Perdue chose not to seek re-election.