

## **In Response to an editorial, Kinder Morgan 'suspends' interest in the Port of Wilmington**

What was accomplished by Delaware Senate Bill #3, sponsored by Senator Robert Marshall and supported by the legislatures, union, business community, environmentalists, bloggers and local community activists in regards to the proposed privatization of the Port of Wilmington. On March 7, 2013, Kinder Morgan announced 'suspending' its interest in the Port of Wilmington saved jobs not eliminate them. Our focus was to ensure the viability of the port long-term and not sacrifice 30 year mortgages of working families for a three year promise to protect the jobs for a select few. Our intent was to protect 30 year pensions and jobs and not accept a three year promise that would see at its end a potential elimination of local job opportunities for residents that invest in this community.

Our efforts in the state legislature and the heroic efforts made on behalf of working families was to ensure that promises and commitments would be kept and not subject to the changing whims of a corporation committed more to their own bottom line instead of understanding that if our futures and interest were tied together that we would all rise and prosper together. By Kinder Morgan's refusal to keep their promise to submit a viable proposal for over a year may demonstrate that their intentions were not as stated. Their support of the legislatures recent actions to provide transparency in the process would have demonstrated their commitment to make this work not just for themselves but for the workers (union and non-union) business contractors and the community as well.

Oil energy giant Kinder Morgan took for granted that we were willing to deal with a company whose history and association with ex-Enron leadership would give any reasonable person cause for the need for transparency, clarity and understanding. We were unwilling to accept a temporary promise under these circumstances and wanted a relationship that provided for partnership without taking away the rights of a company to do business but instead protect the community from possible traumatic events that had been witnessed in the past by their former partners that resulted in lost pensions, elimination of jobs, lives destroyed, communities left in ruins, and an environment damaged by toxic chemicals and contaminated waste.

We did not refuse to meet with a partner willing to invest in the future of the city and the port. We refused to sell out the future generations of our children. We refused to endanger the lives of residents in the community. We refused to sacrifice a commitment of workforce safety for the immediate gratification of a promise for short-term gain and the expense of long-term sustainability. Kinder Morgan had a choice to work with the best workforce in the nation and deal fairly with a supportive community or continue to do business at the expense of others without regard to quality of life and well-being.

We are pleased with the outcome and stand ready to work with any company willing to invest its interest with the people of this community and region. But we expect transparency and a demonstrated commitment to the Port of Wilmington's long-term success.

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Fighting for working families to live a decent quality of life