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June 15, 2015

City Council President Russ Stark
Saint Paul City Council
15 West Kellogg Boulevard, 310-D
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Hawkins, Inc. Conditional Use Permit at 701 Barge Channel Road, Southport
Shipping Terminal—City Council Public Hearing, June 17, 2015

Dear Council President Stark:

The Saint Paul Port Authority supports the unanimous decision on April 24, 2015 of the City Planning Commission to grant Hawkins, Inc. a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the construction of 8 new tanks and tank containment area, truck containment area, and rail containment area structures, subject to the conditions outlined in the Planning Commission Resolution. In our opinion, the PED staff conducted a very thorough analysis of this proposal. We recommend to the City Council that it reject the appeal.

This Hawkins site is located in the Saint Paul Harbor in the Port Authority's Southport Shipping Terminal. Hawkins has been operating for over 30 years at this site as our tenant; the Port Authority is pleased to have been able recently to add a contiguous parcel to its leased premises to accommodate Hawkins' need to modernize their operations, add important safety features to protect their employees, and add storm water management systems that will protect the Mississippi River. We appreciate their investment in modernizing their operations and upgrading systems that will add to environmental protection in the area.

The Hawkins proposal is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and the zoning designation. It is also consistent with the Southport Industrial District Action Strategy within the Riverfront Action Strategy that was adopted by the Port Authority Board of Commissioners on January 26, 1999. The Strategy indicates that the Port's primary goal is to maintain the maximum amount of shipping-related activity possible in this area. Hawkins is significantly involved in shipping activities in this terminal, and we believe that their operations constitute the highest and best use of this land.

Hawkins is operating under all applicable laws and required permits and has maintained communications with the MN Pollution Control Agency regarding permits, assessments, and this proposal.

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The company provides over \$61,000 in annual personal property taxes at this Southport location, and on a Citywide basis Hawkins pays over 4 times that amount per year. Hawkins also provides a wage scale in Saint Paul to their employees that is admirable and far beyond the basic living wage level; Hawkins' starting pay is greater than \$26 per hour, with substantial benefits and retirement plan.

Hawkins is a supplier to the City of Saint Paul, the Metropolitan Council, and the YMCA, among other customers. Through these business relationships, it assists in drinking water purification, the purity of wastewater discharge to the Mississippi River, and in the healthiness of City and YMCA swimming pools.

Hawkins is a solid business citizen in Saint Paul that cares about employee wages and on-the-job safety, the environment, and streamlined operations with modern and safe equipment.

We urge the City Council to approve the Conditional Use Permit.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Louis F. Jambois
President

cc: All City Council Members
Lorrie Louder, Senior Vice President
Business & Intergovernmental Affairs