



EDUCATION, ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE & HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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May 12, 2026

EEECHO's Statement on MDEQ Permit Board Decision

Today's MDEQ's Permit Board's decision to permit the Interconnecting Gulfport was disappointing but came as no surprise.

EEECHO has never questioned the judicial process as we know that the rule of the law must be followed as it relates to eminent domain. However, we are completely disappointed by the City of Gulfport's prioritization and high stakes politicization of a road project that unnecessarily destroys wetlands of national importance, threatens an EPA-designated Aquatic Resource of National Importance (ANRI), and deprives Gulfport residents of far more practical solutions. The City still cannot explain why they're pushing for a road that their own study said was the least effective for traffic, the most expensive, and the most environmentally intrusive. In due time everyone will know and see for themselves.

For almost two decades the community has advanced a much needed Proposed North-South Collector Road and new I-10 Interchange that would immensely alleviate traffic congestion and offer taxpayers, businesses, government agencies so many other benefits. The community's plan was envisioned through a collaborative effort and funded by the federal government. Officials should be more transparent and work more synergistically for the best possible outcomes for our city.