



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 8, 2012

Media Contact: Ted Kresse  
401.831.1200 x110  
tkresse@nharbor.com

## **Gov. Chafee Joins Sens. Reed and Whitehouse to Celebrate New Addition to Quonset's Port of Davisville**

---

*New Mobile Harbor Crane Seen as Key Component for the Port  
To Become Active in Short Sea Shipping*

---

*Reed, Whitehouse, Langevin Secured Federal Funding for Port Improvements*

**Quonset, R.I.** – Governor Lincoln D. Chafee joined with Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse today to announce the arrival of a Gottwald 7608 Mobile Harbor Crane at Quonset Business Park and the Port of Davisville. The new addition, which will be based on Pier 2, is expected to increase port business and is seen as the last key element required for the Port to become active in the short sea shipping industry. Senators Reed and Whitehouse were instrumental, along with Congressman Jim Langevin, in securing federal funds for the crane.

“Today is a good day for Quonset and the future of Rhode Island. This extraordinary new piece of equipment will help us create more jobs and bring more business to our state and to our residents,” said Governor Chafee. “This will ensure that Quonset Business Park continues to be the economic engine of growth that we need, and help define the Park as one of Rhode Island’s key resources.”

Quonset Business Park is already considered one of the premiere business parks in New England and one of the largest in the Northeast. It is a main driver of economic growth and job creation in Rhode Island. Quonset is home to 168 companies, employing more than 8,800 people in every sector of the economy. The Port of Davisville is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest auto importer in North America.

The purchase of the crane was made possible through the efforts of Senators Reed, Whitehouse, and Representative Jim Langevin. The Rhode Island delegation members worked vigorously to secure funds through the federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant program. Quonset Business Park took a major step forward in 2010 when the park was awarded \$22.3 million in TIGER grants, which are administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Senator Reed described the importance of the crane’s presence at Quonset. “Upgrading the pier and adding this versatile new crane will help leverage the federal investments we’ve made in Quonset by bringing short sea-shipping options to the port. After decades of work, the Port of Davisville has become an important hub for the auto-import business. We want to build on that success. This

-- more --

crane can help us diversify, maximize our assets, and bring more business and economic growth to Rhode Island,” said Reed, a member of the Appropriations Committee who worked for over a decade to secure \$55 million to make the Rhode Island Freight Rail Improvement Project (FRIP) a reality.

The Gottwald 7608 crane has the ability to lift up to 140 metric tons and stands approximately 126 feet high. It will allow the Port of Davisville to handle 100% of the annual container traffic projected for the port according to a recent legislative study. In advance of its arrival, 228 piles for the crane’s heavy lift platforms were added to Pier 2 for strengthening, and two concrete bases were built on the Pier to support the crane. These improvements were also funded by TIGER grants. The crane, which can only be manufactured in Germany, arrived in late May, and is being assembled by members of the Iron Workers Local 37 and Gottwald representatives. According to officials, the cost of the crane was approximately \$4 million.

During the event, Senator Reed and Senator Whitehouse presented two keys to Governor Chafee and Steven J. King, PE, the Managing Director of Quonset Development Corporation (QDC), symbolizing the federal government’s role in helping to bring the crane to Quonset.

"I was proud to work with the delegation to secure more than \$20 million in federal funds to support improvements at Quonset Point that will create jobs here in Rhode Island,” said Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. "The purchase of the mobile harbor crane will help the Quonset Business Park become a significant player in the short sea shipping and clean energy industries. I'm happy to celebrate this important step forward in our state's economic development."

"In these challenging times, we must pursue new avenues for creating quality jobs and growing our state's economy," said Langevin. "The Quonset Development Corporation has been a proven leader in this effort and I was proud to work with Senators Reed and Whitehouse to support this crane and increase port business in Rhode Island."

“We are indebted to the entire Rhode Island delegation for their continued support of the Port of Davisville and Quonset Business Park,” King said upon receiving the symbolic key to the crane. “Governor Chafee and I believe that this will bring a new dimension to the Port and play a vital role in expanding our business here."

The arrival of the crane comes at an exciting time for Quonset Business Park. In April, Governor Chafee formally introduced an innovative Site-Readiness program developed by the Quonset Development Corporation, which simplifies and expedites the permitting process so that 35 pad-ready sites in the business park are ready for immediate development by future tenants. In February, it was announced that the Port of Davisville at Quonset Business Park had moved up to become the 7th largest auto importer in North America.

*[About Quonset Development Corporation:](#) The Quonset Development Corporation (QDC) is a real estate development and property management company. Formed in 2005 it is responsible for the development and management of the 3,207 acre Quonset Business Park®. Quonset Business Park is home to 168 companies, employing approximately 8,800 people in a variety of industries. The Port of Davisville at Quonset Business Park is the 7th largest auto importer in North America.*

###