

## **“Big Cranes, Bigger Deal” – February 2, 2007**

The following is a reply submitted for consideration in the Opinions section of the *Star-News*.

Like many local residents, I have noted with some interest and anticipation the upcoming arrival of the four (4) new cargo cranes being delivered to the State Port in Wilmington. An Op-Ed piece in the *Star-News* on February 2, 2007, noted how much of a boon this would be to the status of the port and to the local economy. While this may be true, I have yet to hear anyone speak of the ironic twist. The State of North Carolina purchased these massive cranes from a manufacturer in China. They were shipped 15,000 miles. Several recent articles and news reports have deemed this a noteworthy and amazing feat. There is one other fact that is no less noteworthy or amazing. The United States, which was instrumental in winning two World Wars based upon its industrial might, is apparently incapable of manufacturing the items in question, or at least not able to do so with economic efficiency. This puts a new appreciation on our infant-like dependence upon foreign trade.