



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PORT FREEPORT RECOGNIZES 30-YEAR COLLABORATION WITH CHIQUITA
AND GREAT WHITE FLEET**

FREEPORT, TX (May 18, 2026) – Chiquita Brands International and Great White Fleet mark 30 years of continuous operations at Port Freeport, a milestone that underscores the company’s longstanding role in global trade and its contribution to delivering fresh fruit to communities across the United States.

“The longevity of this collaboration reflects a shared commitment to reliability and performance that supports supply chains across the United States and strengthens connections to international markets,” said Rob Giesecke, Chairman of the Port Freeport Commission. “We are honored to recognize this milestone and look forward to many more years of collaboration and growth.”

The milestone is further underscored by the Chiquita Horizon, which made its inaugural U.S. call at Port Freeport in September 2025. The vessel reflects continued investment in modern fleet capabilities designed to support advanced cold-chain logistics and evolving global trade requirements.

“Chiquita and Great White Fleet are proud of our 30-year relationship with Port Freeport and look forward to its continued growth supporting the import of fresh produce into the United States and the export of perishable cargo and dry commodities to Central America,” said Manrique Bermudez, Director of Logistics for Chiquita.

As Port Freeport enhances its infrastructure and expands its capabilities, collaborations like this are central to advancing trade, supporting economic growth, and delivering value to the communities it serves.

“Port Freeport is proud to celebrate Chiquita’s 30-year cooperation and the meaningful impact they have made through the reliable weekly delivery of fresh fruit to our communities with

a focus on sustainability,” said Phyllis Saathoff, Port Freeport Executive Director and CEO. “Their operations are supporting families with stable jobs here at Port Freeport and abroad.

The 30-year milestone follows Port Freeport’s centennial year in 2025, bringing together a century of maritime heritage with decades of collaboration.

About Port Freeport

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranks 6th nationally in chemicals, 13th in total foreign waterborne tonnage, and 4th in the State of Texas by the same measure. A 2022 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 266,300 jobs and has a total economic output of \$157.3 billion. Port Freeport serves Alliera, Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products Partners, ExxonMobil, Freeport LNG, Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc., Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Linde, MEGlobal, NYK RORO, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallaum Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy, Volkswagen Group of America, and Vulcan Materials Company.

About Chiquita Brands International, Inc.

Chiquita Brands International is a leading global produce company that is committed to providing both consumers and customers across nearly 70 countries with the highest quality of fruit and service, making Chiquita® the banana of choice. For more than 150 years, Chiquita has been proudly producing great-tasting, superior-quality bananas. The brand aims to create a positive impact by implementing the principles of sustainability throughout all of its business practices under the "Behind the Blue Sticker" initiative.

Recognized as a 2025 *Good Housekeeping* Snack Award winner, this honor underscores Chiquita’s strong emotional connection with consumers and its long-standing reputation for trust and quality. Chiquita’s iconic Blue Sticker has been the seal of approval for high-quality fruit, and a celebration of fun, but it also represents a commitment to sustainable farming, biodiversity and giving back to the communities in which the banana plantations operate. Great-tasting and convenient Chiquita® bananas are fat-free, and provide a source of potassium, fiber and vitamin B6. To learn more, visit www.chiquita.com and follow us on [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Great White Fleet Corporation

Great White Fleet is a leading logistics partner for refrigerated shipping, dedicated to keeping the global flow of goods moving seamlessly. Leveraging more than a century and a half of maritime expertise, the company offers comprehensive end-to-end logistics solutions supported by a modern fleet and a highly knowledgeable team. From bridging continents to supporting local livelihoods, Great White Fleet’s mission is centered on reliability, customer-centricity and operational excellence. Today, the world’s leading organizations trust Great White Fleet to manage their most critical supply chain needs. For more information, visit www.greatwhitefleet.com

Chiquita® is a trademark or registered trademark of Chiquita Brands L.L.C in the U.S. and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. For more information about

Chiquita and its products, visit the company's website at Chiquita.com.

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PHOTO CUTLINE 1: Pictured left to right during a recognition honoring Chiquita Fresh North America L.L.C.'s 30 years of operations at Port Freeport are Rudy Santos, Port Freeport Commission Vice Chairman; Phyllis Saathoff, CEO; Blair Brownlow, Chiquita Manager Operations Freeport; Rob Giesecke, Port Freeport Commission Chairman; Manrique Bermudez, Chiquita Director of Logistics; Barbara Fratila, Port Freeport Commissioner; and Ravi Singhania, Port Freeport Commissioner.



PHOTO CUTLINE 2: Staff from Port Freeport and Chiquita gather in the Chiquita yard at Port Freeport to commemorate the company's three decades of operations and collaboration with the Port.



PHOTO CUTLINE 3: Port Freeport and Chiquita staff in front of a Chiquita vessel marking Chiquita's longstanding presence at Port Freeport.

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