

## **Resolution in Support of Increased Freight Rail Hauling Capacity**

**Whereas**, state and federal transportation officials and others project that United States freight volumes will increase by more than 92 percent by 2035 over 2002 levels;

**Whereas**, the nation's highways are already stretched to capacity;

**Whereas**, the efficient movement of goods is directly related to the strength of a nation's economy and its citizens' quality of life;

**Whereas**, public policies promoting increased investment in freight rail infrastructure would result in increased freight rail hauling capacity;

**Whereas**, expansion of freight rail hauling capacity would yield impressive public benefits by relieving worsening congestion, reducing highway costs, providing a critical intermodal link to international trade, and improving air quality and fuel efficiency;

**Whereas**, relatively modest public investments in freight rail infrastructure would yield an impressive return on investment in the form of savings to motorists, businesses, and taxpayers;

**Whereas**, legislation was recently introduced in Congress that would create tax incentives to increase investment in freight rail infrastructure; and

**Whereas**, this legislation is the type of proposal that the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials says is needed to accommodate increasing freight volumes and realize the public benefits that come from shipping more freight by rail.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce supports building a stronger economy, reducing highway congestion, improving air quality, using tax dollars more efficiently, and improving quality of life by advocating for increased use of freight rail transportation;

**Be It Further Resolved** that the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce endorses federal investment tax incentives to increase freight rail hauling capacity; and,

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Board of Directors of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce directs its principal officer to send the attached letters of support to the following: Barney Frank, the Representative of the House of Representatives, Fourth Congressional District, and each of the U.S. Senators from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009 by the Board of Director of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce.



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James Pratt, Chairman of the Board