

POSITION STATEMENT

Energy

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit business advocacy and economic development organization. It has a diverse membership base of 1,000 businesses – primarily small and medium size - in the SouthCoast region of Massachusetts. This policy position is intended to serve as guidelines for the Chamber's Government Affairs efforts and has been reviewed and approved by the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee and Board of Directors.

Adopted: September 22, 2011

Position: According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Massachusetts ranks as one of the more expensive states for commercial power. In an increasingly competitive and globalized economy, these high energy costs place SouthCoast businesses and industry at a competitive disadvantage. The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce supports measures and initiatives that support and encourage a reliable and more affordable energy supply that keeps pace with the region's growing population and economy, while protecting our environment.

The Chamber encourages the following:

- The development of new electricity generation and the development of smart grid transmission infrastructure, including renewable and alternative energy.
- Increased energy conservation and efficiency throughout our region through the use of incentives and market-driven policies that promote voluntary participation.
- Federal, state, and local policies that provide appropriate incentives, including, but not limited to, tax credits, tie-in tariffs, property tax exemptions, expedited permitting, and other measures that promote private investment in renewable/clean energy projects, environmentally sustainable building designs and systems, transit oriented development, as well as research and development.
- A review of energy distribution and transmission costs and greater transparency as it relates to energy charges and billing.

While this statement is policy as of the effective date of this document, the Chamber reserves the right to adopt changes and make modifications and additions to its policies, and will continue to monitor issues as they develop. Please contact Roy Nascimento, President at (508) 999-5231 with any questions regarding this policy position.