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January 5, 2009

Mr. Alan Anacheka-Nasemann
US Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
Attn: CENAE-R-PEA
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

RE: SouthCoast Rail Project
Permit Number NAE-2007-00698

Dear Mr. Anacheka-Nasemann:

Please accept this letter as evidence of our support for the establishment of passenger rail service between the SouthCoast region and Boston.

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, a one thousand member-strong business organization, provides leadership on issues and activities important to our economy and quality of life. Our mission is to serve the interests of member businesses while advocating business advancement, economic growth and job creation for the benefit of New Bedford and the SouthCoast region of Massachusetts.

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce remains a strong advocate for the extension of commuter rail service from Boston to New Bedford and other communities in the Southcoast region of Massachusetts. The Chamber believes commuter rail extension is critical to economic development and growth in the region and in keeping with long-range "Smart Growth" planning strategies that support the environment and encourage development around priority development areas. Commuter rail extension to the SouthCoast will also help meet existing and future demand for public transportation and enhance regional mobility for residents, businesses, and visitors to the region by reducing congestion and increasing travel choice.

We thank you for your consideration on this important economic development issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

James R. Pratt, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

Maureen Armstrong
Vice Chair of Government Affairs

Roy Nascimento, IOM
President & CEO

cc: Ian Bowles, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs