



February 17, 2009

Ms. Michelle Ricci
Federal Aviation Administration
New England Region
12 New England Executive Park
Burlington, MA 01803

RE: New Bedford Regional Airport Improvements Project
EOEA #10316

Dear Ms. Ricci:

Please accept this letter as evidence of our support for the proposed safety improvements to the New Bedford Regional Airport.

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 enhanced runway safety areas and other proposed improvements will result in an infrastructure that is better equipped to serve the businesses and private aircraft that use the airport. The environmental issues have been carefully considered and the project is a good balance that will result in enhanced operations and safety that benefits businesses, residents, and visitors to the community.

The airport is important to the economic well being of New Bedford and the SouthCoast region. The airport, directly and indirectly, employs over 200 people and generates \$36.6 million into the state economy. These safety improvements will help retain existing businesses and attract new economic development opportunities to our region.

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: Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office