

NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL AIRPORT **PROPOSED SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

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. The Chamber has developed the following position statement in response to the proposed safety improvements for the New Bedford Regional Airport. This policy position is intended to serve as guidelines for the Chamber's Government Affairs efforts and have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Chamber.

October 23, 2008

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce believes that the health of the New Bedford Regional Airport is important to the economic well being of New Bedford and the SouthCoast region that the airport serves. A dependable transportation infrastructure is an integral part of the region's quality of life and critical to the movement of goods and people. The airport remains an important asset to the region and provides local businesses with opportunities to compete in a global economy. The airport, directly and indirectly, employs over 200 people and generates \$36.6 million into the state economy.

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce supports initiatives to improve the operations and safety of the New Bedford Regional Airport. Airport improvements are important to the sustainability of the airport and beneficial to everyone in the community – businesses, residents, and visitors.

The Chamber encourages the City of New Bedford to:

- Improve the runway safety areas for runways 5-23 and 14-32 to FAA standards.
- Replace and expand the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting/Snow Removal Equipment building.
- Expand general aviation parking ramps.
- Expand corporate jet parking ramps.
- Construct general aviation and corporate jet hangars.

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 & CEO at (508) 999-5231 with any questions regarding this policy position.