



794 Purchase Street • P.O. Box 8827 • New Bedford, MA 02742
(508) 999-5231 Tel • (508) 999-5237 Fax • www.newbedfordchamber.com

June 4, 2009

The Honorable Therese Murray
Senate President
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 330
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Support for full funding of the employer funded Workforce Training Fund (Line-item 7003-0701)

Dear Senate President Murray:

On behalf of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to you to endorse and support full funding for the employer funded Workforce Training Fund (MGL Ch. 29 2RR).

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, a 1,000 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 Chamber believes that the Workforce Training Fund benefits both employers and their employees and should be maintained. It helps workers gain new skills, promotes productivity and innovation, and supports Massachusetts employers looking to compete in a rapidly changing global economy. In addition, it does not drain any other state revenue sources since it is financed entirely by Massachusetts employers through a surcharge on their Unemployment Insurance tax.

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that you administer the recommendations previously offered by Associated Industries of Massachusetts which include fully funding the Workforce Training Fund at \$21 million and establishing it as a trust with all yearly revenue generated to be spent annually without further appropriation. In this difficult economy, it becomes even more imperative that the state supports measures to promote job training and investment in our local employers.

Thank you for your consideration on this important economic development issue.

Sincerely,

James R. Pratt, Jr. CPA
2009 Chairman of the Board

Maureen Armstrong
Vice Chair of Government Affairs

Roy M. Nascimento, IOM
President & CEO

cc: Speaker of the House Robert A. DeLeo
Chairman Charles A. Murphy, House Ways & Means Committee
Chairman Steve C. Panagiotakos, Senate Ways & Means Committee
SouthCoast Legislative Delegation