



May 8, 2017

New Bedford City Council
Special Committee on the Airport
City of New Bedford
Attn: Donna Brito
133 William Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Dear Members of the Special Committee on the Airport:

I apologize that a commitment will keep me from attending your next meeting, but I did wish to reach out to you on behalf of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce regarding the widening of runway 14-32 as addressed within the Airport Master Plan.

The Chamber is strongly supportive of this planned expansion and remains strongly in support of the FAA giving proper consideration to this important project at our airport. The expansion of the runway will mean new and exciting opportunities for growth, both in commercial and corporate aircraft usage, allow for expanded service to our great community and region and, in turn, allow for improved business opportunities at this crucial amenity.

Increasingly, airport service is a strong determiner for other forms of economic development in a region outside the capital, and the New Bedford Airport is uniquely poised to be a crucial cog in our economic development attraction and retention of business to the area. As I understand, the Master Plan funding as approved by the FAA allows only for a 75 foot wide runway. While this width may be adequate in most cases, the Chamber would support the City of New Bedford to consider supplementing the FAA investment to increase the width to 100 feet. The investment (understood at \$1.1 million dollars) could allow for increasing the number of quality jobs, make our community more attractive to commercial and corporate uses, increase overall airport operations and bring our airport to the modern standard it deserves.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Rick Kidder
President & CEO

cc: Angelic Taylor