



## COLONIAL AIR

March 11, 2013

Mayor Jon Mitchell  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

It has come to my attention that a concerted effort has been initiated to have Commissioner Michael Knabbe removed from the New Bedford Regional Airport Commission.

As a tenant at the airport for over three decades, I must express my concerns with this possibility. Although outspoken, candid and challenging, to all involved Commissioner Knabbe is by far the most knowledgeable person on the Commission when it comes to aviation and airport related matters and concerns. He has been involved with the current runway safety area project from its inception and has worked closely with the Airport's consulting firm throughout the process. He is the only aircraft owner and active general aviation pilot currently on the Commission. He is a business man that understands both aviation and viable business endeavors. While we have not always seen eye to eye, I do recognize that he has always had the best long term interests of the airport in mind.

The persons behind the effort to remove Commissioner Knabbe appear to be reacting to their personal views and resentments and are not taking the overall general welfare and future growth of the airport, its tenants, and users/customers into consideration. Having an Airport Commission without a knowledgeable, active pilot would be like having a Board of Health without a Doctor, or a Fisheries Task Force without a Fisherman. These are the important members who bring knowledge and transparency to local boards which could otherwise be easily misled. For Mr. Knabbe not to remain on the Commission based on the highly prejudicial opinions of individuals who feel challenged by him would be a disservice to the New Bedford Regional Airport and the City of New Bedford. I urge your office to allow Mr. Knabbe to continue the excellent work he has done for the Airport and to remain an active Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Doris Cunningham  
President/CEO

1605 Airport Road  
New Bedford, MA 02746  
(508) 997 - 0620 fax (508) 990 - 2582  
[www.colonial-air.com](http://www.colonial-air.com)

# Sandpiper Air, Inc.

Full Service FBO - New Bedford Regional Airport (EWB)



Multi Comm: 122.85

March 26, 2013

Honorable Jonathan F. Mitchell  
Mayor of the City of New Bedford  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

Sandpiper Air is owned by my father, William N. Whelan and has been an FBO at the New Bedford Airport since 1998.

Personally, I have had the honor of serving on the New Bedford Regional Airport Commission for more than 7 years, resigning in 2006 to help my father run Sandpiper Air.

These items are pointed out to give you background on my and Sandpiper's experience with the New Bedford Regional Airport Commission.

Michael Knabbe is a current Member of the Commission and has served the Commission, the Airport and the City well in this capacity. As a pilot, Michael understands the unique environment of the Airport and has the background and experience to make informed and educated decisions. There are times when Michael does not vote the way I or some of my fellow pilots would prefer, and I'm sure his position on the Commission makes for lively conversation with his fellow pilots. The fact that Mike listens to a diverse range of opinions and then makes his own decision speaks well to his independence and desire to make the right decision, not always the popular one.

The Airport is at a crossroads – the runway betterment project will be in full swing this summer with a significant negative impact on airport operations, our control tower is slated to close on April 7<sup>th</sup> with as-yet unknown effects on commercial traffic (both general aviation and scheduled service) and the future of our most active user, Bridgewater State University Flight School, is anything but certain. We need Michael and other experienced, educated aviation community members like him to make the difficult decisions that lie ahead for our Airport.

Please give strong consideration to retaining Michael Knabbe as a Member of the New Bedford Regional Airport Commission.

Best Regards,



William M. Whelan  
Manager  
Sandpiper Air, Inc.

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Cc: Councilor James Oliveira  
39 Briarwood Drive  
New Bedford, MA 02745

Councilor Bruce Duarte, JR.  
804 Kempton Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Councilor Steve Martins  
273 Shaw Street, #3  
New Bedford, MA 02745

Councilor Brian Gomes  
66 Clara Street  
New Bedford, MA 02744

Councilor David Alves  
356 Valley Road  
New Bedford, MA 02745

# Nor East Aviation Services, Inc.

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3/26/2013

Mayor Jon Mitchell  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Ref: New Bedford Regional Airport Commission

Dear Mayor Mitchell,

I am the owner of Noreast Aviation Services Inc at the New Bedford Regional Airport. Noreast has been in business at airport since 1975. We have never met but I am told you are presently considering replacing Mr. Knabbe on the Airport Commission.

It is extremely important to the business at the airport to have someone on the board that has Aviation experience. The running of the airport as you well know is no different than running business. The management of any business is dependent on the experience level of those making decisions for that business. The decisions made for the airport are extremely important to our business success. A bad decision or one made without the consideration of the people that work at the airport or fly into the airport could be a major factor to that business success.

I am told that the MAC's recommendation is to have one (1) person on the commission with Aeronautical experience and New Bedford's recommendation is to have two (2) people with Aeronautical experience. We have operated for the past few years with only one commissioner with Aeronautical Expierance.

It is EXTEMELY important that you keep these points in mind when you make your future decisions on Mr. Knabbe and future appointments to these positions

Thank you in advance

John H. Steidinger  
President/CEO

C/C Councilor James Oliveira  
Councilor Bruce Duarte, JR  
Councilor Steve Martins  
Councilor Brian Gomes  
Councilor David Alves ✓