



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

December 20, 2019

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

This letter is in reference to Executive Order 13888, "On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement." Please note that communication about, or participation in, the implementation of Executive Order (EO) 13888 is not an endorsement of the legality of the EO.

I write to affirm that the City of New Bedford will continue to take part in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). As Mayor of New Bedford, I consent to initial refugee resettlement in our city per the terms of the Executive Order. This consent is valid unless it is later withdrawn.

The USRAP is a prime example of a public-private partnership between the federal government, state and local governments, local non-profit organizations, and volunteers that provides refugees with the tools of self-reliance: housing, community orientation, English-language classes, and job placement. Every day, community members in New Bedford are volunteering with resettlement offices to help refugees integrate and thrive.

Refugees tend to be resilient, hardworking people whose innovation and skill have contributed greatly to our city. They have opened businesses, helped to revitalize neighborhoods, and are productive members of our city. For these reasons and more, the City of New Bedford will welcome refugees.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Mitchell  
Mayor

CC: U.S. Representative William Keating  
U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren  
U.S. Senator Edward Markey  
New Bedford City Council