March 12, 2020

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes
And Honorable Members of the New Bedford City Council
New Bedford City Hall
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear City Council President Lopes and Honorable Members of the City Council:

I am hereby requesting that the City of New Bedford, as Grantee of Foreign Trade Zone #28 (FTZ 28), be authorized to apply to the U.S. Foreign Trade Zones Board and applicable federal agencies to reorganize FTZ 28 to an Alternative Site Framework (ASF) and that the Mayor be authorized to execute all necessary paperwork for the application and any subsequent administrative actions for FTZ 28.

Foreign Trade Zones were created by Congress in 1934 to expedite and encourage international trade. FTZ benefits are available to any U.S.-based company and include duty deferral, duty elimination, duty reduction, and expedited trade.

The City of New Bedford was granted FTZ 28 in 1977, and the New Bedford Harbor Development Commission dba the New Bedford Port Authority (NBPA), has been the administrator of FTZ 28 for the past several years. In 2019, the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council approved the expansion of the FTZ 28 service area to include Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth, Barnstable, Duke's, and Nantucket counties.

The ASF was adopted by the Foreign Trade Zones Board in January 2009. The ASF defines a service area and allows for greater flexibility and speed to meet requests by companies for zone status and increases total acres available from 22.5 to 2,000.

Approval of the ASF and administrative authorities allows the NBPA to efficiently meet the needs of companies requesting zone status which ensures U.S.-based, Massachusetts-based companies can remain competitive in today's global markets.

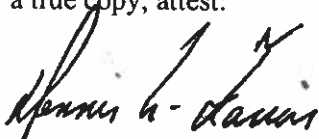Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

cc: Edward Anthes-Washburn

IN CITY COUNCIL, April 7, 2020
Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings.   Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk
a true copy, attest:

City Clerk