

May 4, 2016

Jay Ash, Secretary
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
One Ashburton Place, Room 2101
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Port of New Bedford Policy Statement—*Charting the Course*

Dear Secretary Ash,

We wanted to share with you our policy statement regarding the new growth opportunities for the Port of New Bedford. In our original report, *Uniting in Pursuit of Growth and Opportunity*, the growth and modernization of the Port of New Bedford/Fairhaven was identified as one of the four main strategies to ensure that New Bedford is on a path toward long-term economic strength and a critical asset of the Commonwealth is put to maximum use.

This policy statement highlights the macro-development themes from the four key sites for port economic development that were the focus of the recently completed waterfront master plan and development plan. In addition, this policy statement explores the long-term considerations for a newly constituted New Bedford Port Authority to manage the strategic and operational functions of the port.

For fifteen years, New Bedford has been America's #1 Fishing Port, and in 2014, more than 140 million pounds of fish was landed valued at \$329 million. It is a full-service port that drives \$2.7 billion in business sales accounting for 20% of business sales within the overall economy of New Bedford and employing over 4,000 people. But as impressive as these numbers are, there remains room for growth and diversification in critical areas that have been underutilized for decades. Our recent planning work makes this very clear.

In the development of this policy statement we have engaged a full range of stakeholders including the private sector leaders in maritime industry, Harbor Development Commission, Mayor Mitchell, and members of the New Bedford legislative delegation through a series of very productive one-on-one meetings. All points of view have been considered and have had meaningful impact on the policy recommendations presented.

While this policy statement takes the entire port into view, the future vitality of State Pier is worthy of special note. We understand your study group is about to complete its review of all the State Piers in the Commonwealth and we feel that efforts to address the management, refrigeration, and deferred maintenance are critical to overall success of the port and a time sensitive priority. We are also aware of Mayor Mitchell's proposal to have MassDevelopment involved in the future of State Pier in a similar fashion to Gloucester. MassDevelopment has done, and continues to do great work in New Bedford, and we feel this management proposal is perhaps the most viable option and worthy of serious consideration.

Should you have any questions, require any additional information, or wish to continue the dialog on these matters please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Gerry Kavanaugh, Co-Chair
Senior Vice-Chancellor for Strategic Management
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Anthony Sapienza, Co-Chair
President JA Apparel Corp.
President New Bedford EDC

Rick Kidder

President & CEO
New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce

Maureen Sylvia Armstrong

President, CEO and owner
Sylvia Group Insurance

Nicholas Christ

President and CEO
BayCoast Bank

Elizabeth Isherwood

Chairman
Greater New Bedford Industrial Foundation

Dr. John Sbrega

President
Bristol Community College

James Russell

President and CEO
New Bedford Whaling Museum

Christopher Rezendes

Founder and President
INEX Advisors

David Wechsler

President and CEO
Maritime International

Richard Canastra

Whaling City Seafood Display Auction

David Slutz

Managing Director
Potentia Business Solutions

Patrick Murray

President and CEO
Bristol County Savings Bank

Helena DaSilva Hughes

Executive Director
Immigrants' Assistance Center

Bob Unger

Chairman
Leadership SouthCoast