

**STATEMENT BY
CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE
OLD COLONY CENTER FOR
TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS**

**I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY TO OFFICIALLY
ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OLD COLONY CENTER
FOR TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS.**

**I FIRST BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE CENTER ABOUT A
YEAR AGO AT THE URGING OF FRED CLARK WHO IS AN
ATTORNEY IN MY BOSTON OFFICE AND ALSO A GRADUATE OF
BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE. HE PERSISTENTLY TRIED
TO GET ME TO VISIT BRIDGEWATER TO SEE FIRSTHAND ALL
THE VALUABLE AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS THAT WERE
BEING PURSUED.**

**DURING MY VISIT, I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT
TINSLEY AND DR. JOHN BARDO'S ENTHUSIASM AND ZEAL
FOR THE PROPOSED CENTER FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY.
THEY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF A REGIONAL CENTER
WHICH WOULD IMPROVE THE MATHEMATICAL AND SCIENCE
SKILLS OF AREA STUDENTS.**

I IMMEDIATELY AGREED TO SUPPORT THEIR PROPOSAL; IT HAD THE POTENTIAL TO STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY. LIKE ALL OF YOU, I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECESSION IN MASSACHUSETTS, WHICH APPEARS TO BE THE LONGEST AND MOST SEVERE IN POSTWAR HISTORY.

THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF MASSACHUSETTS HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY HARD HIT. ONE SIGNIFICANT REASON THIS REGION HAS SUFFERED TREMENDOUSLY IS BECAUSE IT TRAILS OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE IN BOTH EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY.

BACK IN 1982, WHEN I STARTED REPRESENTING THIS AREA OF THE COMMONWEALTH, THE REGION HAD AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 13.2%, THE HIGHEST IN MASSACHUSETTS. I IMMEDIATELY BEGAN WORKING WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT WOULD LURE MAJOR BUSINESSES. BECAUSE OF THE FORESIGHT OF STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, THE MYLES STANDISH INDUSTRIAL PARK AND RTE 495 WERE DEVELOPED. THESE DEVELOPMENTS MADE THE AREA MORE ATTRACTIVE TO MAJOR FIRMS. BY 1984, OCEAN SPRAY AND GTE, TWO MAJOR FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES, ESTABLISHED THEIR CORPORATE AND DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN THE AREA.

AT THE TIME, ONE MAJOR IMPEDIMENT FOR PROSPECTIVE COMPANIES WAS THE REGION'S LACK OF A QUALIFIED WORKFORCE. SOME OF THE COMPANIES THAT LOCATED HERE ENGAGED IN LIMITED EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS, WHICH MET THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE COMPANIES. AS A RESULT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPPED TO 3 % IN 1988.

HOWEVER, THIS CURRENT RECESSION HAS HAD A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY OF SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS. AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS ONCE AGAIN SOARED. ALL OF THE VARIOUS EFFORTS TO PROVIDE A LONG TERM, STEADY, AND RELIABLE EMPLOYMENT BASE WERE NEARLY UNRAVELED BY OUR CURRENT ECONOMIC TROUBLES.

I ENTHUSIASTICALLY BACKED BRIDGEWATER'S PROPOSAL FOR A NEW CENTER BASED ON THE BELIEF THAT IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ENDING THIS DEVASTATING RECESSION AND ENSURE LONG TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES WILL NOT HAVE TO LOOK PAST THE RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS TO SATISFY THEIR EMPLOYMENT DEMANDS.

THIS INITIATIVE BY PRESIDENT TINSLEY AND DR. BARDO SHOWS GREAT INSIGHT INTO THE CURRENT PROBLEM. MORE THAN 80% OF THE STUDENT BODY ARE FROM THE REGION AND 50% OF THE GRADUATES RETURN TO SAME AREA. THUS, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF AREA STUDENTS NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED IF THE AREA WANTS TO PROSPER.

MAJOR BUSINESSES AND CORPORATIONS WILL BE ATTRACTED TO THIS AREA IF OUR WORKFORCE POSSESSES SUPERIOR EMPLOYMENT SKILLS. AND, ADDITIONAL JOBS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE PROVIDED. SIMPLY PUT, A BETTER EDUCATED AND MORE QUALIFIED WORKFORCE WILL STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND MAKE THE AREA MORE COMPETITIVE.

NOT ONLY WILL THE TECHNOLOGICAL CENTER MAKE THIS REGION MORE COMPETITIVE STATEWIDE, BUT IT WILL ALSO IMPROVE ITS STATURE IN THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARENA. CITIZENS MUST BE ABLE TO DEVELOP SKILLS TO INTERACT WITH OUR COMPETITORS, COOPERATE WITH ALLIES, AND ADDRESS GLOBAL CHANGES. OTHERWISE, THE U.S. WILL FALL DANGEROUSLY BEHIND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. THE TECHNOLOGICAL CENTER WILL ENHANCE THE MATH AND SCIENCE SKILLS OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, AND CONSEQUENTLY INCREASE THEIR COMPETITIVENESS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY.

THE KEY TO STABILIZING THE ECONOMY IN SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS, AND MAKING IT LESS VULNERABLE TO EXTREME SWINGS FROM HIGH TO LOW, IS JOBS, JOBS AND MORE JOBS. THE OLD COLONY CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS WILL BE THE IMPETUS TO MAKING THE ECONOMY LESS PRONE TO CYCLIC ECONOMIC CHANGE.

IN CONCLUSION, I COMMEND ADRIAN TINSLEY AND JOHN BARDO FOR THEIR INITIATIVE AND INSIGHT. I AM CONFIDENT THAT UNDER THEIR DIRECTION AND LEADERSHIP, THE OLD COLONY CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS WILL FLOURISH BOTH EDUCATIONALLY AND ECONOMICALLY.