His Worship Mayor Fred Eisenberger & Committee of the Whole
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North, Suite 230
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3

RE: Airport Employment Growth District

Dear Mayor Fred and Members of Council,

On behalf of the REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington (RAHB) and our 2400 members we are writing to express our support for the development of the Hamilton Airport Employment Growth District (AEGD).

As an association we are represented on the Community Liaison Committee by our CEO, Ross Godsoe, and have welcomed presentations from Hamilton International Airport President and CEO, Richard Koroscil, and from the city's own Guy Paparella, Director - Industrial Parks and Airport Development. After much discussion and debate, we have decided to put our support behind this project, and urge Council to proceed on this initiative.

We realize that the costs for this project may seem large; however, money spent now will have positive benefits for the economy and residents of Hamilton. For one, building a new tax base in the AEGD can reduce the strain on residential taxpayers. Secondly, as a city, Hamilton cannot afford to become a bedroom community for Toronto. We need to be a city where people can live, learn, work and play. Hamilton has the potential to become this city.

In order to achieve this, we need to be forward thinking in our plans for the future, and we believe the AEGD should be an important component in these plans. It should be noted, we do not feel the airport is the only solution to employment solutions, but rather a critical part of a multi-pronged solution, which should involve brownfield revitalization, where possible, and the attraction of industry focusing on research, design and development.

We urge you to move forward on the decision to develop the Airport Employment Growth District for the long term viability of Hamilton.

We are looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington

[Signature]
Ann Cosens
2008 President

[Signature]
John Vail
2008 Government Relations Chair

CC: Guy Paparella - Director, Industrial Parks and Airport Development
    James Goodram - Industrial Parks and Airport Development
    Richard Koroscil - President and CEO, Hamilton International
    Alexandra Rawlings - Co-ordinator, Planning and Economic Development Committee