



DCN: 3511
THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
 Environmental Conservation
 Housing
 The Armed Forces
 Legislative Caucus
 Legislative Commission on
 Rural Resources
 Legislative Task Force on
 Integrative Medicine and
 Agriculture
 Legislative Task Force on the
 State of New York Agriculture

DANIEL J. BURLING
 Allegany, Genesee, Livingston and
 Wyoming Counties
 Assemblyman 147th District

June 16, 2005

Chairman Anthony J. Principi
 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
 2521 South Clark Street
 Suite 600
 Arlington, VA 22202

 **RECEIVED**
06302005

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

On behalf of the people in the 147th Assembly District, I am writing to express deep concern with the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard base. This recommendation is not in our state or nation's best interest. It is my strong belief that the BRAC Commission should reverse its decision and remove the base from the closure list.

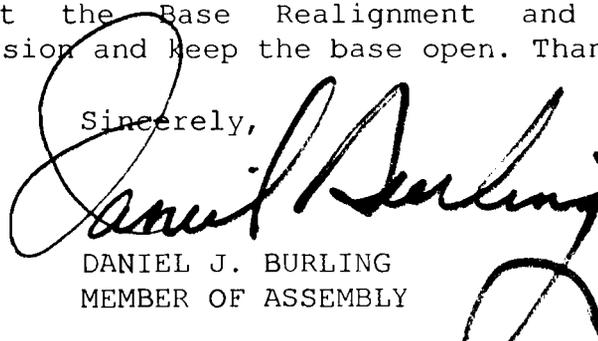
I am further concerned with the Air Force's decision to relocate aircraft, missions and vital jobs away from the many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and position them on more costly Active Duty bases. Further, the strategic importance of this base for homeland security missions and support is vital to the region.

According to media accounts, we are facing significant challenges in recruiting during this current time of war. As a US Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran and former officer in the US Army Reserve, I know that the only remaining major military installation in Western New York has been key to military recruitment.

The impact of this decision will be devastating to the New York Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's future recruitment and retention efforts of military personnel even more difficult.

Citizens from across New York are united in support of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve and Guard base and its retention. I respectfully request that the Base Realignment and Closure Commission reverse its decision and keep the base open. Thank you.

Sincerely,



DANIEL J. BURLING
 MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY

BRAC Commission
Received
6/30/2005



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

DANIEL J. BURLING
147th Assembly District

*I thought the enclosed might be of
interest to you.*

Cordially,

Dan Burling