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Charles Breem, Ph.D
658 Wyoming avenue
Buffalo, N.Y. 14215

Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington Va 2202

Dear Chairman Principi
and BRAC Commissioners:

I am very concerned about the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagra Falls Air Force Reserve Base. I feel that this recommendation is a grave mistake that will hamper our Contry's ability to react to threats to this area, both foreign and domestic. I urge the commission to reverse this decision and remove it from the list

This area is home to the two most significant power generating plants located east of the Mississippi at Niagra Falls. During the last black out, these plants were able to make up almost 60% of the electricity needed from Virginia to Montreal. If these plants had been rendered inoperable combined with grid destruction, all power to the northeast would have been shut down. This would produce a disaster of Biblical proportions. Does anyone in the Defense Department think that, our enemies are not aware of this situation. Considering that on Al Quade cell was broken up in Lackawana which is only 10 miles from the stations, I would think that the Defense Department would be considering placing a Rapid Reaction Force at this base and expanding its mission, not closing it. I would also hazard a guess that if, god forbid, something like this happend after the base was closed, the Party that was in the positions of authority would never be elected to any office in this country. How this mission can be accomplished from Youngstown Ohio is beyond me.

as far as overseas missions are concerned, it is hard to understand how the the Defense Department would pick the base which is the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Reserves?

Finally, I would like to know how the Guard would be able to respond to natural disasters, when they occur after these massive cuts.

I urge the commission in the strongest possible terms to remove the Niagra Falls base from the closure list and stop the continuing retreat from this region of the country.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Breen, P.D