

**PAULINE M. ALONGI**  
318 Wadsworth Avenue  
Tonawanda, New York 14150-5916  
(716) 694-3594

June 22, 2005

BRAC Commission

**JUL 19 2005**

Received

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

Dear Chairman Principi and Honorable BRAC Commissioners:

The Pentagon has recommended the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York be closed. As Niagara County's second largest employer with nearly 3,000 full and part-time workers, this would deliver another devastating blow to our region's economy.

The base site lies within close proximity to four major border crossings between the U.S. and Canada, along with the New York State Power Authority's Hydropower complex which harnesses the waters of the Niagara and supplies substantial power to the Northeast United States Grid.

While the base serves as a logistical backbone for the War on Terror, it is also strategically placed and fully expandable to allow the addition of a fighter squadron to further secure America's northern border and power grid infrastructure. It should be expanded rather than closed.

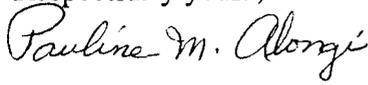
According to the Niagara Military Affairs Council:

- Closure of Niagara would reduce the Air Force presence in NY by **40%**, and eliminate the last Federal Air Force flying mission in the State. Since 1995, Niagara has been modernized with **\$35M** in new facilities and lengthened runways which have improved the operational effectiveness of the wings.
- We have also reduced our Base Operations Support costs by not less than **33%** (to include a **25%** reduction in utilities) to make the base one of the ***most cost-efficient*** facilities in the Air Force Reserve Command.
- Closure of the base would also ***eliminate the ability to recruit and retain New Yorkers*** in a region in which the units have both maintained in excess of 100% manning rates.
- Niagara Falls existing infrastructure can accommodate ***8 additional C-130H model aircraft*** without any military construction.
- Niagara Falls faces ***no physical encroachment or air traffic control constraints*** and has acreage on the base and adjacent to the installation for expansion.

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I humbly request that you *strongly reconsider* the decision to close the station. The fine men and women of the **107th Air Refueling Wing** and **914th Airlift Wing** have been instrumental in securing the home front and fighting the war on terror overseas.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter.

Respectfully yours,  
  
PAULINE M. ALONGI

**DOMENIC ALONGI**  
63 Villa Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14216-1210  
(716) 877-0598

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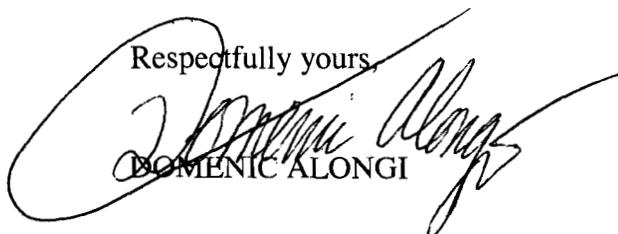
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DOMENIC ALONGI

**RISÉ T. GELLER-ALONGI**  
63 Villa Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14216-1210  
(716) 877-0598

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Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rise Geller-Alongi". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

RISÉ T. GELLER-ALONGI