

ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

DCN: 3663

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James G. Palmer
Chairman

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Clerk

June 29, 2005

07012005

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



Re: Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

We were deeply disappointed to hear of the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base. On behalf of the Allegany County Board of Legislators, I am writing to urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) to reverse this decision and remove the Niagara Falls AFB from the closure list.

Our country faces significant challenges in recruiting during war time, and the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base is the only remaining major military installation in western New York. Closing the Niagara Falls AFB will have a devastating impact to the New York Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's efforts to recruit and retain military personnel even more difficult than it is now.

We do not understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on more costly Active Duty bases. How will we defend this region or respond to disasters?

Please remove the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base from the Pentagon's recommended list of base closures and stop the continuing retreat of the military from our region of the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James G. Palmer".

James G. Palmer, Chairman of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

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