



June 9, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I write in strong opposition to the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard base. In the interest of national security, I respectfully ask that the BRAC Commission remove the Niagara Falls base from the closure list.

I oppose this closure on three principal grounds:

- **Cost.** It is hard to understand the decision to transfer planes, missions and jobs from Air Guard and Air Reserve bases to more costly active duty bases.
- **Recruitment.** We all know that the nation's military faces major recruitment challenges. As the only remaining major military installation in western New York, Niagara Falls has been key to military recruitment. This base closure will devastate 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.
- **Border security.** In this time of uncertainty, when our friendly border with Canada may be exploited by terrorists, the proximity of the Niagara Falls base to the Canadian border must be considered. The base can still play a strategic role in defending our nation.

Our community stands united against this ill-advised attempt to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base. Please join us in this fight and reject the Pentagon's recommendation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Florence L. Ligammari".

FLORENCE L. LIGAMMARI

452 8TH STR

NIAGARA FALLS N.Y. 14301

06302005

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Sincerely,



Melissa Green  
6416 Orchard Parkway  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

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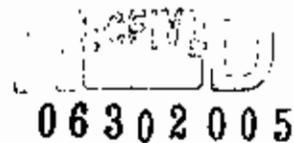
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Sincerely,

Ms. Jennifer A. Bruno  
153 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
Niagara Falls, New York



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Sincerely,

*Priscilla Dolling*  
Priscilla Dolling  
418 Roger Ave  
N. Tonawanda NY 14120

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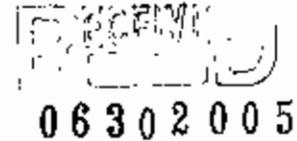
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Sincerely,

*Teresa Larre*  
8716 Pershing Ave.  
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304



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Sincerely,

*Laurie Marshank*  
8224 Bollinger Ave  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

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Sincerely,

Karen Smith  
3822 Macklem Ave.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

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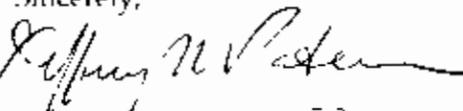
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Jeffrey M. Ferguson

826 - 90<sup>th</sup> St.

Niagara Falls, NY 14304