



OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
BUSINESS AFFAIRS & TREASURER

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June 3, 2005

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

**Re: Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base**

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I was upset to hear of the Defense Department's recommendation to close the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base. This recommendation is not in the nation's best interest and the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and remove Niagara Falls from the closure list.

As a matter of homeland security, I feel it is extremely important to have a military presence in close proximity to one of our nation's largest source of hydro-electric power that services a major part of the northeastern United States and Canada.

In addition, the closing of the base would have a devastating economic impact on our region. The base is Niagara County's second-largest employer with more than 3,000 full and part-time military and civilian positions and has an estimated impact of \$150 million on regional businesses.

The media has reported that the military is facing significant challenges in recruiting during war time. As the only remaining major military installation in western New York, Niagara Falls has proven to be a very important resource for military recruitment. The impact of this decision will be devastating to the New York Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's efforts to recruit and retain skilled military personnel even more difficult than it is now.

The Buffalo Niagara business community stands with the Niagara Falls/Western New York community in support of the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base, and its retention. Overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Beiswanger Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert C. Beiswanger Jr.  
Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer