

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



JOHN A. DeFRANCISCO
SENATOR, 50TH DISTRICT

June 29, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am writing to you and your fellow Commission members asking that you carefully review the Defense Department recommendation of closure of the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard base with an eye toward reversing the recommendation.

It is clear that closure of this Upstate New York facility will be devastating to the entire upstate New York economy, an economy that has already been negatively impacted in many ways and for reasons beyond its control by foreign competition. In addition, it has been well documented that the precarious times in which we live have created a challenging environment for military recruiters. The Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard Base has had a positive impact on recruitment. It's closure would certainly make recruiting more difficult.

I believe an independent and careful review of the merits of this proposal will lead you to conclude that retaining the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve and Guard is in the best interests of Niagara Falls, New York State and the nation.

Very truly yours,

John A. DeFrancisco
State Senator

JAD/acf