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June 13, 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 am writing to express my disagreement with the Defense Department's recommendation to close 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.

It is difficult to 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. In addition, the newspapers confirm that we are facing significant challenges in recruiting during war time. As the only major military installation remaining in western New York, Niagara Falls is essential to meeting military recruitment goals. The impact of the decision to close this base will be devastating 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.

New Yorkers stand firm with the Niagara Falls/Western New York community and are united in support of this base and its retention. Please overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open.

Sincerely,

Sherry A. Mossotti  
Executive Director & CEO



**RECEIVED**

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