ECLEG JUL10'12 AM10:52

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED**
**BY LEGISLATOR GRANT**

**RE: Encouraging The Buffalo Bills to Adopt the New NFL Rule Limiting Television Blackouts of Games**

WHEREAS, for four decades, the National Football League (NFL) implemented a policy to black out local broadcasts of games not sold out 72 hours prior to game time; and

WHEREAS, this policy has had a negative impact on Buffalo Bills fans in Western New York as Ralph Wilson Stadium is among the largest stadiums in the league, yet is not situated in a major metropolitan market such as New York, Miami, Dallas or New England; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body unanimously approved a resolution in January 2012 asking the NFL to relax its rules with regard to blackouts of games to local television viewing audiences; and

WHEREAS, under the revised rule, which was previously approved by team owners, each team has the option of implementing the new, relaxed regulations; and

WHEREAS, these regulations would allow blackouts to be lifted if 85 percent of a stadium's non-premium seats are sold; and

WHEREAS, the fans of The Buffalo Bills fully support the relaxed rules, which "evens the viewing field" for our community, given the large number of seats in our stadium compared to football stadiums across the nation that are home to an NFL team.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature go on record in support of the new, relaxed NFL blackout rules; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body encourage the management of The Buffalo Bills to adopt this policy in recognition of the decades of support – from fans and taxpayers alike – this Buffalo area franchise has received; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to the management of The Buffalo Bills, the Erie County Executive and to all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.