

# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATOR - 11th DISTRICT



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July 29, 2011

Lt. Governor Robert Duffy, Chair  
Mr. Howard Zemsky, Co-chair  
Dr. Satish Tripathi, Co-chair  
New York State Regional Economic Development Council  
Western New York region

Gentlemen:

Upon attending Governor Cuomo's July 26<sup>th</sup> Buffalo announcement, I have read the July 23 "A New Operating Model for NYS Government" drafted to stimulate regional economic development.

The comprehensiveness of the guidelines provided in the document offers a welcomed opportunity for timely improvement of regional development efforts. There are four areas that I am particularly interested in learning how the council will approach.

1. What will be the relationship among existing plans produced by local Workforce Investment Boards, Industrial Development Agencies, tourism entities, chambers of commerce, business advocacy groups, and local organizations involved in job development?
2. What role will local governments play in directly assisting the implementation of the council's eventual strategic plan? For example, will future county funded capital project bonding be linked to council project initiatives?
3. Will the council employ professional staff to coordinate, develop and prepare the documentation required to fulfill the many tasks assigned and outlined specifically in the model?

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4. Will the council seek to acquire existing municipal generated economic and job development plans as part of building an overall strategic plan and its implementation?

I am particularly hopeful that ongoing efforts of Visit Buffalo Niagara (formerly the Convention & Visitors Bureau) and the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise be reviewed as various council working groups to assist in supporting ongoing local initiatives that may have regional value.

Your willingness to consider my comments above are appreciated. I wish you well as you undertake the Council's very important and herculean tasks.

Sincerely,



Lynn M. Marinelli  
Erie County Legislator

Cc: Dottie Gallagher, Visit Buffalo Niagara  
Tom Kucharski, Buffalo Niagara Enterprise  
Jim Finamore, Buffalo & Erie County Workforce Investment Board  
Al Culliton, Erie County Industrial Development Agency