

INTRO 23-1

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**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS MARINELLI, MILLER-WILLIAMS, WHYTE, KOZUB,
WHALEN, GRANT, MAZUR, BOVE & LOUGHRAN**

RE: Request for New York State Deficit Reduction Assistance for NFTA

WHEREAS, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) now faces a \$15 million deficit and needs greater state assistance to complete a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, the state's economic climate has significantly decreased the NFTA's annual state transit operating assistance (STOA) while at the same time adversely impacting health care insurance costs, workers compensation costs, and mortgage recording tax levels. The NFTA's current STOA level is \$4.3 million less than the amount proposed in the 2008-2009 executive budget; and

WHEREAS, while dedicated funding sources are decreasing, responsibilities and needs are steadily increasing. Approximately 73 percent of Metro riders are accessing work, school, or medical attention, while 77 percent of riders do not own a car. The cost of these comprehensive services, and maintenance of an aging transit fleet, simply exceeds the current level of revenues and assistance received at every level of government; and

WHEREAS, the NFTA employs over 1,600 people, connects millions of people to employment, and links the local Western New York economy to the rest of the country and the world; and

WHEREAS, elimination of this deficit, and dedication of higher transportation revenues in the future, is needed to sustain the NFTA's services and its positive impact on the region and the entire state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby requests that the State of New York provide \$10 million in deficit reduction funds eight megawatts of low-cost power to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) as part of the 2012 – 2013 state budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this certified resolution be sent to the NFTA Executive Director Kimberley A. Minkel, NFTA Acting Chairman Henry M. Sloma and the NFTA Board of Commissioners, the members of the Western New York State Delegation and William L. Ross, Chair of the Niagara County Legislature.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for the resolution