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

**RE: Calling on the ECIDA, the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, and the State of New York to seek communication with Volkswagen America to ascertain the viability of attracting Volkswagen to Western New York.**

**WHEREAS, the UAW (United Auto Workers) attempted to organize the autoworkers of Volkswagen's Chattanooga Tennessee plant; and**

**WHEREAS, the attempt to organize was met with threats by elected officials in the Tennessee state government; and**

**WHEREAS, Tennessee State Senate Speaker Pro Tempore, Bo Watson, called the UAW's campaign "un-American" and further went on to say "Should the workers at Volkswagen choose to be represented by the United Auto Workers, any additional incentives from the citizens of the state of Tennessee for expansion or otherwise will have a very tough time passing the Tennessee Senate"; and**

**WHEREAS, Bernd Osterloh, who is the head of Volkswagen's work council has said, "I can imagine fairly well that another VW factory in the United States, provided that one more should still be set up there, does not necessarily have to be assigned to the South again"; and**

**WHEREAS, Erie County has the necessary labor force and a proud history of organized labor; and**

**WHEREAS, The Governor of New York State, Andrew Cuomo, has committed considerable state resources to Western New York commonly known as the Buffalo Billion; and**

**WHEREAS, a Volkswagen site could prove to be a large economic driver to Western New York; and**

**WHEREAS, the labor rates at comparable plants in Western New York offer a competitive advantage compared to many Southern plants; and**

**WHEREAS, the New York State Power Authority could attract Volkswagen to Erie County with low cost power.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature recognizes the importance of organized labor as an economic driver in Western New York; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that this honorable body does hereby express our support for attracting Volkswagen to Erie County; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of New York State, Andrew Cuomo; Erie County Executive, Mark Poloncarz; City of Buffalo Mayor, Byron Brown; CEO of Volkswagen of America, Michael Horn; Western New York Regional President of the Empire State Development Corporation, Sam Hoyt; Co-Chair of the Western New York Regional Development Council, Howard Zemsky; United Auto Workers Region 9 Director, Scott Adams;**

Volkswagen Works Council, Bernd Osterloh; U.S. Representative for New York's 26th congressional district, Brian Higgins; City of Buffalo Common Council; New York State Assembly; New York State Senate; Erie County Industrial Development Agency; The Buffalo Niagara Enterprise.

**Fiscal Impact: None.**