

Erie County Legislature



EOLED APR08'14 10:35

92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

April 4th, 2014

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

While the County of Erie certainly appreciates the State of New York's efforts in financially supporting our region, we feel it necessary to request that the process of acting on our request for a home rule be expedited. This crucial process in securing funding, via sale of bonds, is lengthy but needed for our County to function properly.

As the attached documentation indicates, our County's authority to arrange for the underwriting of bonds through a negotiated agreement expires on June 30, 2014. To continue operation of the County in a timely manner, the power to arrange for the underwriting of bonds must be passed for another year, and is proposed in Senate and Assembly bills, S-6687 and A-8864, respectively.

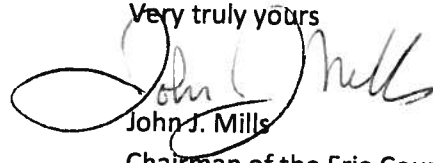
Obligations set by leaders of our County government; state and federal mandates; and an unusually long, cold, and brutal winter have contributed to a list of items that need funding through bonds. These items include roads, bridges, lease obligations with Ralph Wilson Stadium, rehabilitation of the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, and many other instances of necessary funding for county needs.

In addition to the critical infrastructure projects that must begin as soon as possible, we are concerned about the trend in long-term municipal bond interest rates. In 2014, those rates have begun to increase, and there is no end in sight, according to our Deputy Comptroller. For one large set of bonding projects the debt service has increased by \$100,000 over the past three weeks. Swift passage of our "Home Rule" request serves an additional benefit of saving the taxpayers of Erie County hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Again, our government, regardless of party affiliation, is seeking to expediently secure funding for much-needed projects, including infrastructure improvements. This funding is contingent upon the State's approval of our "Home Rule" requests that will not only allow the County to secure the necessary funding but will allow us to do it at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayers.

Attached you will find the signatures of our local leaders in support of this request.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Mills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John J. Mills

Chairman of the Erie County legislature
92 Franklin St. – 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

c.c. Western New York Delegation to the NYS Assembly and Senate

Joseph C. Lorigo – Majority Leader
Erie County Legislature District 10

Betty Jean Grant - Minority Leader
Erie County Legislature District 2

Kevin R. Hardwick
Erie County Legislature District 4

Thomas A. Loughran
Erie County Legislature District 5

Edward A. Rath III
Erie County Legislature District 6

Patrick B. Burke
Erie County Legislature District 7

Ted. B. Morton
Erie County Legislature District 8

Lynne M. Dixon
Erie County Legislature District 9