

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

RE: Expressing Support for the Continued Operation of the 107th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard out of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

WHEREAS, the Western New York Economic Development Strategic Plan titled "A Strategy for Prosperity in Western New York" (November 2011) outlines the critical role played by the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in our region's economic development efforts; and

WHEREAS, this role emanates from the positive economic impact of the employment of 3,300 military and civilian personnel who work at the base and collectively provide \$169 million in economic impact to our region; and

WHEREAS, at present, 34% (640) of the 1,881 employees of the 914th Airlift Wing and 52% (428) of the 824 employees of the 107th Airlift Wing reside in Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the loss of either or both of the aforementioned military units would have a devastating economic impact on the Buffalo Niagara Region; and

WHEREAS, an additional economic benefit of the military presence in Niagara County is its contribution to the competitive cost advantage enjoyed by Niagara Falls International Airport (NFIA), which will serve as the hub for a robust Bi-National Logistics Sector – a key sector identified in "A Strategy for Prosperity in Western New York;" and

WHEREAS, within three years, the federal government will again conduct a "Base Realignment and Closure Commission," which may view the transfer of the 107th Airlift Wing out of Niagara County as justification for the closure of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station; and

WHEREAS, the possible closure of the Air Reserve Station would cripple our region's efforts to fully development and take advantage of the Bi-National Logistics Sector.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature express its full support of the continued operation of both the 107th Airlift Wing and the 914th Airlift Wing out of Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body respectfully request that the Governor give no consideration to a transfer of the 107th Airlift Wing to another location in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to Governor Andrew Cuomo; Major General Patrick A. Murphy, Adjutant General of New York State (Division of

Military and Naval Affairs); Satish K. Tripathi, Co-Chair, WNY Economic Development Council; Howard A. Zemsky, Co-Chair, WNY Economic Development Council; County Executive Mark Poloncarz; Director of the Erie County Office of Veterans' Affairs (Carlos Benitez), the Chairman of the Niagara County Legislature (William L. Ross) and the Commissioner of the Niagara County Department of Economic Development (Samuel M. Ferraro).

FISCAL IMPACT: Positive for Western New York.