

REBUILDING



Buffalo Niagara

Government
Affairs
Agenda



A Letter from the Government Affairs Committee Chair

Once again, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, working through our Government Affairs Committee, has produced a list of federal and state policy and funding priorities for this year. We thank the members of the Partnership for their input and ideas which helped formulate the issues highlighted in the 2002 Government Affairs Agenda.

We have called this year's agenda *Rebuilding Buffalo Niagara*, because we believe that the specific priorities outlined in it are the key to reinvigorating our economy and creating new jobs and investment in our community. This agenda is also significant because it represents a collaborative effort of the Mayor of Buffalo, the Erie County Executive and the Partnership to speak with one voice.

For too long, our community has had divided priorities which sent mixed signals to our elected leaders at the state and federal levels. We hope that rallying around this priority list will enable sustained progress to be made on each initiative in it.

We would be remiss to not mention the recognition by all parties involved in drafting this agenda that the realities facing government have drastically changed in light of the events September 11, 2001. These realities further underscore the importance of presenting a single agenda to our elected leaders.

Of course, no document such as this can be all encompassing. The Partnership will support and aggressively advocate for any issue that will improve the business climate and quality of life in the Buffalo Niagara region. If you have any questions on the agenda, please feel free to contact the Partnership's Government Affairs Department at (716) 852-7100 ext. 365.

Sincerely,



Marsha Henderson
Chair, Government Affairs Committee
Buffalo District President, KeyBank NA

Government Affairs Staff

Kevin C. Schuler, Director of Government Affairs
(716)852-7100 ext.365, kschuler@thepartnership.org

Laura M. Gang, Local Government Manager
(716)852-7100 ext.453, lgang@thepartnership.org

Ken Vetter, Public Policy Manager
(716)852-7100 ext.363, kvetter@thepartnership.org

Patrick Gould, Federal Affairs Manager
(716)886-4448, pat@scanlongould.com

REBUILDING

Buffalo Niagara by.....

IMPROVING ENFORCEMENT AND EFFICIENCY AT THE CANADA/U.S. BORDER

The events of September 11, 2001 put a renewed focus on the Canada/U.S. border. Congress acted quickly to provide more resources for security at the border crossings in terms of both personnel and technology.

The Partnership strongly believes that increasing security can also mean increasing efficiency at these border crossings. This point is particularly important for Buffalo Niagara since our bridge crossings account for a large percentage of Canada/U.S. trade.

Action Items

- Federal policy – Create Accord Processing Zones, to allow true joint facility creation, to substantially increase border efficiency and to reduce congestion/wait times and associated costs.
- Federal funding – Upgrading technology and increasing personnel via content of and appropriations from the US Department of Justice (INS) and US Department of Treasury (Customs) based on resources provided by legislation that passed last fall.

REBUILDING

Buffalo Niagara by.....

CONTINUING EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Thanks to much hard work by many groups of people, including members of the Partnership, Buffalo received a designation as a Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics by New York State at the end of 2001. This center represents our community's best opportunity to find a niche in the "new economy" creating thousands of good-paying jobs in life sciences and related businesses.

Action Items

- Federal funding – For the purchase of computer equipment and software to support faculty research and industry collaborations. In year one, \$3.1 million was provided, leaving a need of roughly \$22 million over the next four years.
- State funding –
 - Fulfillment of the state's commitment of \$75 million for construction of state of the art research and research commercialization facilities.
 - In FY 2001-2002 the state appropriated \$10.1 million statewide for high-tech programs but has yet to allocate these dollars. The Center seeks a \$3 million allocation from this appropriation.

REBUILDING

Buffalo Niagara by.....

CREATING SHOVEL-READY, DEVELOPABLE LAND

Many are surprised to learn that one of the roadblocks hindering economic development in the Buffalo Niagara region is the lack of shovel-ready, developable land. Indeed, our region lacks large land tracts that are often sought after by site selectors.

The best hope for our community is to reclaim former industrial waterfront land for new development.

Action Items

- Federal funding – \$12.5 million for the development of the Union Ship Canal and Bethlehem Steel sites and the fulfillment of a federal commitment of \$2 million for Times Beach project.
- State Policy – Adopt comprehensive state brownfield legislation that provides for use-based clean-up standards as well as limits on liability, constant with federal legislation.
- State funding – Secure the remaining \$6 million of the governor's \$10 million commitment for the Union Ship Canal project.

REBUILDING

Buffalo Niagara by.....

IMPROVING THE LONG-TERM FISCAL STABILITY OF THE CITY OF BUFFALO

The City of Buffalo is in the midst of a very serious fiscal crisis that could push it toward bankruptcy and/or a financial control board if major structural changes are not made. Further complicating the city's situation is the fact that, unlike past years, New York State does not have the resources to provide extraordinary aid which has enabled Buffalo's structural problems to continue.

Action must be taken this year to enact long sought policy reforms, which will strengthen Buffalo for years to come.

Action Items

- State policy –
 - Create a new, contributory pension tier for police and fire retirees.
 - Remove the residency exemption for police, fire and streets employees.
 - Cap salaries for 207a firefighters on injured-on-duty status.
 - Change Binding Arbitration. The interest arbitration process takes little account of municipality's ability to pay, ignores most non-salary (e.g. productivity issues), and allows a "neutral" person who generally does not even live in the area to make final decisions about millions of tax payer dollars.
 - Pass necessary legislation that would allow Erie County to take over the operation of Dunn Tire Park.
- State funding – Establishment of a "re-engineering government" fund that would provide funds to help Buffalo make structural changes.

REBUILDING

Buffalo Niagara by.....

DEVELOPING BUFFALO'S DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT

For decades, residents of the Buffalo Niagara region have heard about the potential that exists by developing our downtown waterfront. Unfortunately, for all of the planning, little actual development has occurred.

In recent years, however, progress has been made and with all levels of government committed to bringing key projects to fruition, our community may finally realize downtown waterfront development.

Action Items

- Federal funding – \$5 million for Intermodal/Aud improvements.
- State funding – \$25 million (grants and loans) plus dedication of state share of sales tax -- for the Bass Pro retail development project.

REBUILDING

Buffalo Niagara by.....

DEDICATING SENECA GAMING REVENUES TO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Governor Pataki, the State Legislature and the Seneca Nation have made substantial progress in efforts to bring gaming to both Niagara Falls and Buffalo. While the Partnership believes that casino gaming can help be a catalyst for development in both Niagara Falls and Buffalo, improvements need to be made to the current casino authorizing legislation.

These improvements focus on the amount of money that both Niagara Falls and Buffalo receive from the State's share of casino revenues, the State's commitment of these funds, and the entities to which those funds are dedicated.

Action Items

- State policy – Funds should be dedicated to development authorities in Buffalo and Niagara Falls to support future projects.
- State funding – A minimum of 50% of the state share of slot machine revenue for the full 14 years.

REBUILDING

Buffalo Niagara by.....

INVESTING IN THE MAINTENANCE OF ERIE COUNTY'S ROADS AND BRIDGES

The Buffalo Niagara region is fortunate to have quality infrastructure for the movement of both people and products. However, maintaining that infrastructure, especially at a time when local governments are cash-strapped, is an increasingly serious problem.

A fully funded, on-time program must be developed to improve our deteriorating road and bridge infrastructure. Recent state budget delays have had the effect of delaying existing projects and/or pushing projects late into the construction season raising costs, reducing the programs effectiveness, and causing job dislocations in the regions construction industry.

Action Items

- Federal funding – \$48.2 million for repair and maintenance for designated roads and bridges (priority road project list is available).

REBUILDING

Buffalo Niagara by.....

PROVIDING MORE EMPLOYER-DRIVEN, WORKPLACE-BASED TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES

One of the most underrated issues for employers in the Buffalo Niagara region is the need for more employer-driven, workplace-based training. While government has attempted to respond to these needs over the years, the dollars provided never quite seem to match up with the training desired by employers.

Unfortunately, part of the problem is the lack of flexibility that comes with these training dollars. Simply changing current policy could meet many training needs without requiring additional government funding.

Action Items

- Federal policy – Revise the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which is pending renewal to provide local Workforce Investment Boards with increased funding for workplace based/employer driven training and with greater flexibility to channel that funding.
- State funding – \$12 million over two years from current, unallocated department of labor funds to meet employer training needs.

REBUILDING

Buffalo Niagara by.....

ENSURING THE FUTURE VIABILITY OF THE WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Reduced funding at the West Valley Demonstration Project has slowed its ability to complete mandated tasks. As a result the project is in need of continued Congressional and community support. The federal funding level for 2001 budget year was \$107 million. The 2002 budget was cut \$17 million to \$90 million. New York State contributes an additional 10 percent each year, thus the state's contribution will also drop in 2002.

There is both an economic and environmental impact from such reduced funding. The average salary and benefits is approximately \$65k per employee in cutting edge technological fields. In addition, the Project spent about \$44 million contract dollars with large and small area businesses in 2001, which will be significantly reduced this year. Furthermore, cuts in funding mean the time frame for closing down the facility is extended out, which runs counter to environmental goals.

Action Items

- Federal and State Policy – Congress has stated that funding "shall be reduced to the minimum necessary to maintain the Project in a safe and stable condition" should the state and the federal governments not reach agreement on stewardship of the WVDP by September 30, 2002. Thus it is imperative that the U.S. Department of Energy and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority come to terms this year over the future operations of the facility.

CENTRALIZING PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES IN ERIE COUNTY

There is widespread recognition throughout our region on the need to consolidate government services where possible as a way to reduce costs. At the same time, it is imperative that any such consolidation maintains and/or improves the level of service provided to the public. One such area that meets this criteria is centralization of public safety services. Such an effort would include construction of a public safety campus in downtown Buffalo for regional E-911, emergency services, forensic laboratory, training operations as well as other police, fire, emergency services and back office operations.

Action Items

- Federal funding - \$25 million need for construction of a public safety campus. In FY03, we seek \$5 million for forensic laboratory equipment.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The work of the Government Affairs department is dependent upon the support of Partnership members, especially those who participate on the Government Affairs committee and those who sponsor GA events. We truly appreciate and acknowledge the sponsorship support of those listed below.



Contact: Pamela Zablonksi,
Government Relations Consultant
2799 Walden Avenue Cheektowaga, NY 14225
Phone: 716-447-2021 Fax: 716-447-2006
Email: zablonp@aam.com



Contact: Deborah L. Ayers
200 Upper Mountain Road Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: 716-439-2973 Fax: 716-439-2957
Email: deborah.l.ayers@delphiauto.com

ERIC MOWER AND ASSOCIATES



Contact: Peter K. Cutler
Director, Public Relations Services
360 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: 716-842-2233 Fax: 716-842-6676
e-mail: pcutler@eric.mower.com



Contact: Dianne Bennett
Partner & Co-Chair
One M&T Plaza, Suite 2000
Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: 716-856-4000 Fax: 716-849-0349
e-mail: dbennett@hodgsonruss.com



Managers of Government Affairs
Contact: Michael Rose
Phone: 716-857-7438
Contact: Pattie Paul
10 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: 716-857-7780 Fax: 716-857-7413



Contact: Susan Crossett, VP Public Affairs
111 Washington Ave., Ste 301
Albany, NY 12210-2227
Phone: 518-433-5286 Fax: 518-465-8512
e-mail: crossetts@niagamohawk.com



Contact: Joanne Willmott
Reg. Manager, Comm. Rel. Div.
5777 Lewiston Road
Lewiston, NY 14092-2121
Phone: 716-286-6651 Fax: 716-286-6654
e-mail: joanne.willmott@nypa.gov



Contact: Brian J. Eldridge, Regional
Managing Director - West Region
150 Erie Street Lancaster, NY 14086
Phone: 716-651-5327 Fax: 716-651-5265
Email: bjeldridge@nyseg.com



Contact: Jonathan A. Dandes
President, Rich Baseball Operations /
Rich Products
275 Washington Street
Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: 716-846-2259 Fax: 716-846-2261
e-mail: jdandes@rich.com



Contact: G. Patrick Gould
540 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202
Phone: 716-886-4448 Fax: 716-886-2965
email: pat@scanlongould.com
In Washington:
611 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
#375 Washington, DC 20003
Phone: 202-547-3600 Fax: 202-547-0084



Contact: Maureen Rasp-Glose
65 Franklin St.
Buffalo, New York 14202
Phone: 716-842-7090 Fax: 716-854-9119
e-mail: maureen.rasp-glose@verizon.com

Adelphia • Barrett Associates • Blue Cross & Blue Shield • Buffalo Destroyers •
Buffalo State College • E-3 Communications • KeyBank • MOOG, Inc. • Niacet Corporation •
NOCO Energy • Quebecor World Buffalo • Rural/Metro Medical Services •
Wendel Duchscherer Architects & Engineers, P.C. • West Valley Nuclear Services

State and Federal Legislative Reference Guide

NEW YORK STATE WESTERN NEW YORK DELEGATION

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

Hon. Byron Brown (D-57)
State Office Building, Room 215
65 Court Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: 716-854-8705 Fax: 716-854-3051
e-mail: brown@senate.state.ny.us

Hon. George D. Maziarz (R-61)
60 Professional Parkway
Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: 716-438-0655 Fax: 716-438-0955
e-mail: maziarz@senate.state.ny.us

Hon. Patricia K. McGee (R-56)
Westgate Plaza
700 W. State Street
Olean, NY 14760
Phone: 716-372-4901
e-mail: mcgee@senate.state.ny.us

Hon. Mary Lou Rath (R-60)
5500 Main Street, Suite 260
Williamsville, NY 14221
Phone: 716-633-0331 Fax: 716-633-0830
e-mail: rath@senate.state.ny.us

Hon. William T. Stachowski (D-58)
2030 Clinton Street
Buffalo, NY 14206
Phone: 716-826-3344 Fax: 716-823-6372
e-mail: stachowski@senate.state.ny.us

Hon. Dale M. Volker (R-59)
4729 Transit Road, Suite 6
Depew, NY 14043
Phone: 716-656-8544 Fax: 716-656-8961
e-mail: volker@senate.state.ny.us

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Hon. Daniel J. Burling (R-147)
2371 North Main Street
Warsaw, NY 14569
Phone: 716-786-0180 Fax: 716-786-0182
e-mail: burlingd@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. Francine Delmonte (D-138)
1700 Pine Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
Phone: 716-282-6062 Fax: 716-282-4226
e-mail: delmonf@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. Arthur O. Eve (D-141)
Deputy Speaker
498 Northland Avenue, Suite 400
Buffalo, NY 14211
Phone: 716-895-2464 Fax: 716-892-7961
e-mail: eve@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. James P. Hayes (R-142)
5555 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
Phone: 716-634-1895 Fax: 716-634-1250
e-mail: hayesj@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. Brian M. Higgins (D-145)
306 Abbott Road
Buffalo, NY 14220
Phone: 716-825-6080 Fax: 716-821-0800
e-mail: higginsb@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. Sam Hoyt (D-144)
Donovan State Office Building, Room 257
125 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: 716-852-2795 Fax: 716-852-2799
e-mail: hoyts@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. William L. Parment (D-150)
Hotel Jamestown Building, Room 809
Jamestown, NY 14701
Phone: 716-664-7773 Fax: 716-483-0299
e-mail: parmentw@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. Robin L. Schimminger (D-140)
3514 Delaware Avenue, Suite 201
Kenmore, NY 14217
Phone: 716-873-2540 Fax: 716-873-5675
e-mail: schimmr@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. David E. Seaman (R-139)
237 Bewley Building
Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: 716-433-5838 Fax: 716-433-6404
e-mail: seamand@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. Richard A. Smith (D-146)
3812 South Park Avenue
Blasdell, NY 14219
Phone: 716-826-1878 Fax: 716-826-0800
e-mail: smithr@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. Paul A. Tokasz (D-143)
Assembly Majority Leader
Donovan State Office Building
125 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: 716-852-2791 Fax: 716-852-2794
e-mail: tokaszp@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. Sandra Lee Wirth (R-148)
1500 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224
Phone: 716-675-7170 Fax: 716-675-1608
e-mail: wirths@assembly.state.ny.us

Hon. Catherine M. Young (R-149)
Westgate Plaza
700 W. State Street
Olean, NY 14760
Phone: 716-373-7103 Fax: 716-373-7105
e-mail: youngc@assembly.state.ny.us

WASHINGTON, DC WESTERN NEW YORK DELEGATION

UNITED STATES SENATE

Hon. Hillary Clinton (D)
28 Church, Suite 208
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: 716-854-9725 Fax: 716-854-9731
e-mail:
http://clinton.senate.gov/email_form.html

Hon. Charles Schumer (D)
111 W. Huron St., Room 620
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: 716-846-4111 Fax: 716-846-4113
e-mail: senator@schumer.senate.gov

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Hon. John J. LaFalce (D-29)
111 W. Huron St.
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: 716-846-4056 Fax: 716-856-3821
e-mail: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Hon. Jack Quinn (R-30)
403 Main Street, #240
Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: 716-845-5257 Fax: 716-847-0323
e-mail: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Hon. Thomas Reynolds (R-27)
500 Essjay, #260
Williamsville, NY 14221
Phone: 716-634-2324 Fax: 716-631-7610
e-mail: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

For a complete list of
elected officials
and more
information on the
Government Affairs
department please visit:
www.thepartnership.org

Government Affairs

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership is the only employer organization in the region with a full-time government affairs staff that maintains frequent and direct communication with government officials and decision makers on behalf of our members.

Through our Government Affairs Department, the Partnership serves as a liaison between private sector interests and local, state and federal governments, representing the collective concerns of the Buffalo Niagara marketplace in policy and budget activities.

The department monitors legislative activities and assists member companies in dealing with government officials on specific issues; as well as advocates to improve the competitive economic climate in the Buffalo Niagara region.

The effectiveness of our advocacy is dependent on regular communication with elected officials. A team of individuals experienced in all levels of government, our Government Affairs Department offers members a strong unified voice in Washington, D.C., Albany and the Buffalo Niagara region. In addition, the Partnership presents a series of events designed to support this communication and help members actively network with the government representatives of the region.

Meet the Candidates (October)
Public Officials Reception (February)
Congressional Event (March)
Buffalo Niagara Night in Albany (June)

In addition to staff capacity and networking efforts, the Partnership also offers the following advocacy initiatives to enhance member involvement in legislative and regulatory activities:

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The committee is comprised of members who work with public officials on behalf of the Partnership and our members. The committee members work collaboratively with public officials on federal, state and local issues affecting Upstate New York and the Buffalo Niagara region. The committee participates in letter writing, email and phone campaigns to public officials on specific issues. Most importantly, the Government Affairs Committee participates in the formation of the Partnership's annual Government Affairs Agenda.

