



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2007

Contact: Hadley Pawlak, 310-8331

STATEMENT BY ANDREW J. RUDNICK, PRESIDENT AND CEO, BUFFALO NIAGARA PARTNERSHIP

“Our fears regarding Michael Chertoff and the Dept of Homeland Security's commitment to making shared border management -- the best option for bridge operations at the Peace Bridge -- reality have been realized,” said Andrew Rudnick, President & CEO of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership upon learning from the Western New York Congressional Delegation that Chertoff, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has unilaterally withdrawn from negotiations with the government of Canada, intended to permit US Customs and Border Patrol officers to conduct their inspections on the Canadian side of the Peace Bridge.

“Mr. Chertoff's predecessor, Thomas Ridge, had committed to find a way to make Shared Border Management work. However, it has been clear that Mr. Chertoff's willingness to live up to that commitment has been sadly lacking,” continued Rudnick. “It seems that the DHS negotiators have looked for reasons not to fulfill their commitment instead of responding to the good faith efforts of the Canadian government and the hard work of Buffalo Niagara's representatives in the House and Senate. Failure to reach an agreement on Shared Border Management is detrimental to the overall economic and cultural relationship between our two countries, the world's largest trading partners.

“We hope that the Canadians will be able to persuade Mr. Chertoff to return to the negotiating table and that he will do so in good faith, because the best option for the Peace Bridge plaza is to put both countries' inspections on the Canadian side of the bridge.”