



BUFFALO NIAGARA
PARTNERSHIP
Businesses United For Growth

May 30, 2006

Dear Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, representing 2,500 employers in the Buffalo Niagara region, I am writing today to urge you to oppose the proposed expansion of the City's current worker training law, which would require any construction company with a contract with the City of Buffalo greater than \$25,000 to provide an apprentice-training program approved by NYS Department of Labor.

In *today's* Buffalo News, there is a very well-stated editorial asking state leaders to help rid upstate New York of burdensome regulations and taxes that have made our region uncompetitive. The recommendations in the editorial echo those in the "Unshackle Upstate" program, an effort championed by the upstate business community. I ask you, however – how can advocacy efforts on behalf of our community succeed when our own local governments are imposing the same sorts of regulations that are hurtful to business?

Lowering the threshold on the city's current worker training regulations will serve only to alienate smaller businesses – both union and non-union – from competing for public contracts. For many businesses that provide necessary services, implementation of a NYSDOL-approved training program is extremely burdensome, if not impossible.

The result: higher costs to taxpayers. A study compiled in September 2000 by engineering and management consultant Paul G. Carr concluded that for every lost bid on a project, the increase in cost is 3.228%. Eliminating more businesses from the bidding process on city contracts will have a detrimental effect not only on the business community, but on the city's bottom line.

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership strongly opposes the expansion of the City of Buffalo's current worker training regulations, and urges you to do the same. The negative impact of the law outweighs any potential benefits. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Rudnick
President & CEO