



May 31, 2006

Dear County Executive Giambra:

On behalf of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, representing 3,000 employers in the Buffalo Niagara region, I am writing, once again, to urge you to veto the Erie County Worker Training Local Law (3-1 – 2006) passed by the Erie County Legislature on May 11, 2006. Local Law 3-1 requires any contractor applying for county work to provide an apprentice-training program approved by NYS Department of Labor.

I fear that the only justification for this law is that the Legislature has the votes to pass it. Erie County cannot afford to pay higher rates for contracts, and the elimination of contractors bidding on public work will ensure that costs will rise. This Local Law, if implemented, will only further increase the cost of doing business in Buffalo Niagara, with the added “bonus” of an increased burden on already over-burdened taxpayers.

Second, many small, non-union contractors – which include many minority and woman owned businesses – are not capable of providing these apprenticeship programs. Worse yet, they may not even qualify to establish apprenticeship programs under Department of Labor guidelines. Eliminating these and other companies from the competitive bid process puts their businesses – and thus the jobs of their employees -- at risk.

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership strongly urges a veto of Local Law 3-1, and will advocate in the Legislature for support for your veto. The negative impact of this regulation outweighs any potential benefits. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Rudnick

Cc: Erie County Legislature