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LEGISLATIVE  
**SUPPORT**  
MEMORANDUM

**S.6083(Maziarz)/A.9633(Tokasz) Makes provision for the allocation of replacement power, 445 MW, by the Power Authority of the State of New York from the Niagara project; sets eligibility criteria.**

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership, representing more than 3000 businesses with nearly a quarter million employees, supports the immediate passage of S6083/A9633. The Partnership is committed to improving the Buffalo Niagara region's quality of life and making the regional economy as competitive as possible.

As such, the low-cost hydroelectric power from the Niagara Project is vitally important to the competitiveness of western New York businesses and industries. The continued sale of Niagara Project low-cost hydropower to local businesses is critical to the economic viability of the Western New York region. More than 100 companies in western New York, with 46,000 jobs, rely on low-cost Niagara Project power to compete in global markets and continue to operate in Western New York.

On December 31, 2005, the federal statutory protection for one category of Niagara hydropower -- Replacement Power -- will expire. Businesses in western New York need to know that low-cost Replacement Power will continue to be available to their facilities. Without S6083/A9366, the future of Replacement Power is in doubt. This is jeopardizing jobs and capital investments in our region.

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership urges the legislature to pass this legislation immediately in order to protect the jobs and investment that are vital to the Western New York economy.

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