



June 12, 2006

Hon. Lynn Marinelli
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Lynn,

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership, representing 2,500 employers in the Buffalo Niagara region, thanks you and your colleagues for your recent passage of a resolution capping county borrowing. You have taken a strong stance to do the right thing, even though that stance may draw criticism in your districts.

As you know, the Partnership's Erie County Stabilization Project "A Plan for Moving On" spoke to capping borrowing in county government as a way to relieve taxpayers – today and in the future – of the substantial cost of debt service. While our project talked of capping borrowing at the amount that will be retired in any given year, you have gone above and beyond that threshold.

We understand that the resolution approved, as amended, certainly doesn't preclude the County Legislature from raising the cap to allow for further borrowing. Thus, we urge your continued leadership in ensuring that the level of borrowing stays at the \$12MM cap. We agree with your statement that expenditures must be prioritized, and while that means some tough decisions in the upcoming months, we appreciate your willingness to tackle those challenges. We also understand the importance of using county money to leverage state and federal money, and in project prioritization this should carry great weight.

It is clear that there is no single cure-all for the Erie County fiscal situation today or in the near future. But each step such as this cap on borrowing strengthens our ability to rein in expenses and control the cost of doing business. I congratulate you on your leadership on this issue, and look forward to further pro-active measures to stop future tax increases.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Rudnick", is written over a set of horizontal lines that serve as a signature line.

Andrew J. Rudnick
President & CEO

cc: Erie County Executive Joel A. Giambra
Erie County Legislature
Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority