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27TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM  
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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,  
NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

REVITALIZING OLDER CITIES  
TASK FORCE  
CO-CHAIR

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary,

As the State Department finalizes the refresh of the historic Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with Canada, we enthusiastically invite you to consider Buffalo, NY as the site for the ceremonial bilateral signing.

Sitting on the banks of the eastern shores of Lake Erie and as the western terminus of the famed Erie Canal, Buffalo undoubtedly owes its moniker of the Queen City to its proximity to the Great Lakes. With this proximity and positioning as a valuable international trade route, Buffalo introduced hydrologic power to the world, innovative grain elevators that forever changed transshipping, was a key point along the Underground Railroad, and become one of the largest manufacturing centers our nation and the Great Lakes has ever known.

Our region's development is inseparably tied to our advantage as a major intersection between the Great Lakes and Canada. The Inner and Outer Harbors are seeing a revitalization and Western New Yorkers understand that our economic future is dependent on and inextricably tied to the health of the Lake we hold dear. This irreplaceable asset has helped create a quality of life for residents that truly make Buffalo a special place to live, work, and play. And in an era when quality of life, character of place, and cultural opportunities a community can offer are key incentives to business, the responsible stewardship of the Great Lakes is more important than ever.

Between the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and improvements to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, it is clear this Administration is more strongly committed to protecting and restoring the Great Lakes ecosystem than any before it. On behalf of the people of Buffalo and Western New York, thank you for your continued efforts and leadership.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HIGGINS  
Member of Congress

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