

BRIAN HIGGINS
27TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM
AND INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

REVITALIZING OLDER CITIES
TASK FORCE
Co-CHAIR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3227

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3306
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

WESTERN NEW YORK OFFICES:
LARKIN BUILDING
726 EXCHANGE STREET
SUITE 601
BUFFALO, NY 14210
(716) 852-3501
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)

FENTON BUILDING
2 EAST 2ND STREET
SUITE 300
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701
(716) 484-0729
(716) 484-1049 (FAX)
higgins.house.gov

September 11, 2012

The Honorable Daniel M. Tangherlini
Acting Administrator
General Services Administration
One Constitution Square
1275 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20417

Re: Back Fill Plan for Dillon Courthouse

Dear Administrator Tangherlini

I write today out of concern for the future of the former Dillon federal courthouse located on historic Niagara Square in downtown Buffalo. Now that the new federal courthouse has been completed – with its impressive beacon adding dimension to Buffalo's skyline – progress on renovating the former Dillon courthouse must commence. It would be a tragedy if the General Services Administration made an investment in one part of Niagara Square while seemingly disinvesting in another federal government owned building just across the street.

It has been my longstanding understanding that a back fill plan for the former Dillon federal courthouse exists and that the building would house the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, the U.S. Trustees, the Federal Defender and the U.S. Tax Court upon completion. Indeed your agency has long indicated this back fill plans as fact. Yet, no demonstrable progress on this plan has been made public as of yet. I strongly urge you to proceed expeditiously with this plan to ensure the full utilization of this historic federal structure.

Please respond as soon as possible. We look forward to working with you on the successful transition of the Dillon courthouse so that both the new and old courthouses can achieve their proper and full use.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress