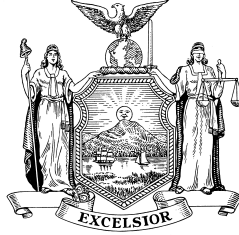


THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

John Ceretto
Assemblyman 138th District



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Environmental Conservation
Housing
Tourism, Parks Arts and Sports Development

May 17, 2012

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Office of the Governor
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write to you today to request your assistance in helping to ensure that Nik Wallenda's tightrope walk across the Niagara Falls gorge is a successful event for both New York State and the Niagara Falls region.

As you know, tourism is a major industry in Upstate New York, bringing in billions of dollars every year to our economy and generating numerous good-paying jobs. The importance of tourism to the Empire State's economic development has been the driving force behind my efforts to strengthen this vital industry.

If done right, the Wallenda event can be just what Western New York needs to help rebuild the American side of Niagara Falls and make it an indispensable tourism destination. That's why I am requesting your help to make this event free to the public.

A free event, in conjunction with the publicity the tightrope walk will generate, will help to place Niagara Falls and our state in a better position to attract future top-flight entertainment. By making the Wallenda event free, we will also be able to ensure that every New Yorker, regardless of income level, has the opportunity to attend this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Furthermore, by making the event free, we would stay true to the Park's pioneers of the late 19th century who founded the Free Niagara movement. Just as their conservation efforts ensured public access to the majesty of the Falls, we must now work to make certain that all New Yorkers are welcome to this event.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you further. I can be reached at 716-282-6062.

Sincerely,

John D. Ceretto
Member of the Assembly
138th District