

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

John Ceretto
Assemblyman 138th District



RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Cities

COMMITTEES
Election Law
Environmental Conservation
Housing
Tourism, Parks Arts and Sports Development

July 26, 2011

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 138th Assembly District, which encompasses the bulk of Niagara County, to discuss strengthening our region's tourism industry in order to boost the local economy and create jobs.

Like many locations in Western New York and across Upstate, Niagara County has enormous promise and tremendous natural resources and human capital. One of my district's most famous landmarks is Niagara Falls State Park, which attracts approximately 12 million visitors to the state each year.

By investing more in this natural wonder, state government can help make the region a centerpiece of a growing tourism industry throughout Western New York. In addition to discussing investment in our parks, I would urge you to sign legislation allowing Nik Wallenda to traverse the Niagara Falls River Gorge on a high wire. This event will promote tourism on the American side of the Falls and give our region a needed boost to help spur economic development.

Over the years, the American side of the Falls has steadily declined as the Canadian side flourished. While Nik Wallenda's visit may not be a cure-all, it can be a step in the right direction toward rebuilding the American side of the Falls.

The Falls themselves are and will continue to be an important tourist destination for years to come. However, it is my hope that the state will invest in the region to help make this natural wonder the centerpiece of a growing tourism industry drawing visitors from across the country as well as the globe.

Governor, I respectfully ask that you come to Niagara Falls State Park to meet with tourism and state parks officials in order to get a first-hand perspective on what can and needs to be done in order to enhance Western New York's tourism industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this request. I look forward to hearing from you soon on this issue.

Sincerely,

John D. Ceretto
Member of Assembly
138th Assembly District