

May 22, 2003

Governor George E Pataki  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Robin Schimminger  
3514 Delaware Ave.  
Kenmore, NY 14217

Hon. Dale Volker  
4729 Transit Road  
Suite 6  
Depew, NY 14043

Dear Honorable Sirs:

It is becoming increasingly apparent that a Control Board is an inevitable part of Buffalo's future. As a group of young professionals dedicated to revitalizing Buffalo and the entire region, we view this as an opportunity: one, if approached with creativity, integrity and intelligence, that can begin the rebirth of our great City. Please be assured we stand ready as a community-based organization to assist in whatever way we can.

The New Millennium Group has consistently advocated for open, fair public processes in major public decision making. We strongly advocate for that in this context. As you know, a Control Board is bounded merely by the legislation you write. Therefore, you have the extraordinary opportunity and the awesome responsibility of creating a Control Board that has tremendous authority over the direction our City takes. Before the Control Board can be created, we feel it is imperative that you, our elected officials, give an opportunity for this community to weigh in on all of the many issues you will have to grapple with as the legislation is crafted. There are simply too many variables and too many critical issues for you not to afford us the opportunity to share our concerns.

In the spirit of open government and inclusive decision making processes, we ask that you convene a public hearing, as soon as possible and prior to the drafting of the Control Board legislation, to give residents of the City of Buffalo the chance to impact this critical piece of legislation. The New Millennium Group will facilitate this public hearing if that is determined to be helpful.

As an organization, we have many concerns regarding this Control Board. Perhaps most important is who will serve on the Control Board and how they will be appointed. This City has been poorly served by self-interested decision making. A Control Board necessarily is outside the democratic processes and, therefore, it is of the utmost importance that each member be beyond reproach and have only one goal, the rejuvenation of our City and the end to our financial nightmare. The make-up of the Control Board is just one issue. A public hearing will raise many more. That is democracy. Since the ultimate incarnation of this legislation is antithetical to the normal workings of a democracy, it is vital that the process by which the Control Board is created be hyper-democratic. A public hearing prior to you putting pen to paper will go a long way to ensuring a fair and open process, and, consequently, you will find a willing public ready to make the necessary sacrifices to turn our City around.

Please consider our proposal. Again, The New Millennium Group is fully prepared to assist in whatever way we can. We may be reached at 716-310-8684.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Toth  
President