



CITY OF BUFFALO
BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR



February 3, 2009

Honorable David A. Paterson
Governor
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: A fair share of federal stimulus funding for the City of Buffalo, NY

Dear Governor Paterson:

I am writing to encourage you to make sure Buffalo receives its fair share of any state-administered federal funds that will be made available through the Economic Stimulus Bill currently being considered by Congress.

Buffalo and Erie County account for five percent of the state's population and, as you know, Buffalo is our state's second largest city.

Following decades of economic decline, Buffalo contends with a disproportionately high rate of poverty and unemployment compared to the rest of the state and, as the NYS Department of Labor (NYS DOL) statistics for December job losses indicated, our region has been hit particularly hard from the recent national economic downturn. According to the NYS DOL, and as reported in *The Buffalo News*, "The December job losses were so severe – 7,600 positions vanished from December 2007 to December 2008 – the region now has fewer jobs that it's had in any December since 1995."

The federal stimulus aid would enable Buffalo to immediately launch critically important infrastructure projects, but, more importantly, it would create jobs for city residents and help turn back the effect of the national recession.

Following consultation with federal, state and local city leaders, I have compiled a list of critical infrastructure projects that can be started within ninety days. Our full list of projects, which amounts to \$622 million and could create over 14,000 jobs, has been shared with Timothy Gilchrist on your staff. The list of projects I have attached with this letter contains our most urgent needs, totaling \$156 million and creating approximately 3,751 jobs. If funded, these projects, and the jobs they create, will have a positive impact on Buffalo and our residents.

I am confident with your leadership and the influx of these federal funds we can get Buffalonians back to work and position the city for further growth and greater economic stability. I look forward to your support and would be happy to discuss this, if necessary, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Byron W. Brown".

Byron W. Brown
Mayor