

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

633 Third Avenue  
New York City, NY 10017

July 20, 2011

Dear Ms. Leecia Eve,

We are writing to you today seeking clarification as to whether or not the Directors of the USA Niagara Development Corporation has the jurisdiction in their bylaws to increase the size of its' footprint within Niagara Falls, NY.

This past term, we introduced legislation in Albany, S.5594/A.8221, which would have expanded the footprint. While this legislation was not ultimately successful, we believe it started an important dialogue in the City of Niagara Falls.

Yesterday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, we attended the meeting of the directors, in which the question of the footprint came up. Members of the Board of Directors expressed that they were unsure as to whether or not the bylaws allow them to expand their own boundaries of influence and indicated counsel would have to look into the matter.

We write you today seeking clarification. Does USA Niagara Development Corporation have the authority to expand their footprint without action from the New York State legislature?

Please be advised, as was indicated in yesterdays meeting, that we plan to introduce similar legislation next year in regards to the footprint.

We trust you will be in touch in regards to your findings pursuit to USA Niagara Development Corporation's bylaws.

Sincerely,

John D. Ceretto  
Member of Assembly  
District 138

Mark Grisanti  
Member of Senate  
District 60

cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Ken Adams, Empire State Development Corporation  
Chris Schoepflin, USA Niagara Development Corporation  
Joan Aul, USA Niagara Development Corporation  
Steve Brown, USA Niagara Development Corporation  
Gary Smith, USA Niagara Development Corporation  
Michael Williamson, USA Niagara Development Corporation

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August 4, 2011

Dear Ms. Leecia Eve,

Thank you very much for your response to our inquiry regarding USA Niagara and its footprint in downtown Niagara Falls.

While we were certainly prepared to reintroduce this legislation, it is good to know that USA Niagara and their Board of Directors hold this authority.

We are additionally pleased that you agree with our conclusion that the inclusion of the Aquarium in any expanded footprint is essential, as its place within the State Parks system is important and its omission is harmful.

We hope that continuous dialogue can be held on additional expansion so that Niagara Falls can reach its full potential.

Thank you again for your attention to this matter and your help in ushering Niagara Falls forward.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John D. Ceretto in black ink.

John Ceretto  
Member of NYS Assembly  
138<sup>th</sup> District

Handwritten signature of Mark Grisanti in black ink.

Mark Grisanti  
Member of NYS Senate  
60<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Ken Adams, Empire State Development Corporation  
Chris Schoepflin, USA Niagara Development Corporation