



May 17, 2017

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Recently, a representative of Niagara County and Save Ontario Shores (SOS) traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with our Congressional representatives to discuss issues related to the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS), and the potential for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process being initiated by Congress sometime in the near future.

Both Senators Schumer's and Gillibrand's military affairs staffers expressed concern that momentum was building in Congress for a BRAC process in the 2019-20 time period.

For some time, SOS and Niagara County have been concerned that the proposal by Apex to construct up to 70 industrial wind turbines, that could tower above 620 feet, in close proximity to NFARS, could be seen as an "encroachment" on flight and/or radar operations. Currently, NFARS is considered "encroachment-free" by the military. Despite this advantage, the base has found itself slated for closure in two previous BRAC proceedings. Only the intense lobbying of federal, state and local officials, as well as the entire Buffalo Niagara community, saved NFARS from closure.

If a future BRAC were to deem this massive industrial wind project an encroachment and the base were to lose this valuable "encroachment-free" designation, NFARS might not be able to avoid a third closure recommendation.

With this background, we bring to your attention a recent article in the *Watertown Daily Times* published May 5, 2017.

In this article, officials from Fort Drum expressed concern about an industrial wind turbine project being proposed by Apex in the vicinity of the post.

According to the article, Julie A. Halpin, a Fort Drum spokesperson, said the Apex project, "would have an impact on radar as it increases the clutter on the scope." She

also expressed concerns that industrial wind turbines in the area could negatively affect instrument approaches for aircraft and negatively impact its air traffic control services.

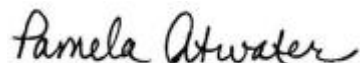
SOS understands that all military installations and their related operations are different and could be impacted differently by industrial wind turbine projects. But we also believe that this entire issue, as it relates to NFARS, has NOT been given the study it deserves.

If the Apex project is approved by the Article 10 Siting Board - primarily made up of state officials appointed by you - without a definitive answer to the question of possible encroachment impacts, the consequences could be a closed base and up to 3,000 people put out of work. Previous BRAC's have been successful in closing seven military installations in New York State. We cannot stand by and allow an out-of-state company to place NFARS at risk of being the eighth New York installation to close.

When the Article 10 Siting Board convenes to consider the Apex project, we ask that you insist the board thoroughly investigates all potential impacts and encroachments this project could have on current and future mission at NFARS. Any rush to judgement on this critical issue could have disastrous effects on the base, the community and the entire Western New York region.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Atwater".

Pamela Atwater
President
Save Ontario Shores, Inc.