

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) wrote the following letter in support of the Statler Building’s effort to become one of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation noting that this distinction would bring needed attention and resources to the local landmark.

“In a city full of exceptional architectural landmarks, it is vital that our community works to preserve and leverage our storied history to help drive our economy. The Statler is of tremendous importance located in a vital portion of downtown in the City’s Niagara Square and preserving it is critical to our efforts,” Slaughter said in the letter.

The full letter is included below:

January 12, 2010

Ms. Joelle Schatz
Special Projects Coordinator

National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Schatz

I am pleased to write in support of Preservation Buffalo Niagara’s nomination of the Statler Building in Buffalo, New York to the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Formerly the Hotel Statler, the building is of major historic and cultural significance to the City of Buffalo. The Statler was the flagship hotel of the renowned Statler hotel chain started in Buffalo by Ellsworth Milton Statler, who is often called America’s greatest hotelier.

In a city full of exceptional architectural landmarks, it is vital that our community works to preserve and leverage our storied history to help drive our economy. The Statler is of tremendous importance located in a vital portion of downtown in the City’s Niagara Square and preserving it is critical to our efforts. Currently, the Statler is in danger of closing and the building sits deteriorating while it languishes in bankruptcy proceedings. A court selected purchaser has been unable to close on the property and the bankruptcy trustee has moved to begin a mothballing process that will leave the building unheated in the middle of a harsh winter season. This will cause the remaining business in the building to shut down permanently resulting in the loss of approximately 150 jobs.

I applaud the efforts of Preservation Buffalo Niagara and other members of the community to garner support for their efforts to save the Statler. I am hopeful that the National Trust for Historic Preservation will give this nomination full and fair consideration. Recognizing the Statler as endangered will generate national attention and resources that will prove vital in the building’s well-being.

I thank you for your consideration of this nationally significant historic landmark.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter

Member of Congress

