



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Mark Grisanti

## Senator Grisanti-sponsored bill requiring one NYPA trustee be from Niagara County approved

MARK GRISANTI March 5, 2012

Senator Mark Grisanti (R-60) sponsored and passed a bill that is designed to change the makeup of the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to include a resident of Niagara County. The Bill, co-sponsored by Senator Maziarz, amends the public authorities' law to provide that the NYPA Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Senate must contain one trustee who is from Niagara County and one who is from St. Lawrence County. Presently, there are seven trustees appointed by the Governor for terms of up to five years and not one is from Niagara County.

One of Niagara County's greatest assets is hydropower or electricity caused by water. The Niagara Power Plant diverts water from the Niagara River up to 375,000 gallons a second to the Robert Moses plant that converts that water into electrical energy. About a billion dollars of electricity is generated annually by the fall of the Niagara River.

"I am excited about the vote on this bill designed to give Niagara county residents a voice in the distribution of electricity. Hopefully, the full Senate will vote unanimously as the committee did to update the board of NYPA board of trustees to better reflect those with a stake in decisions being made about hydropower," said Senator Mark Grisanti (R-60). "The New York State government has diverted locally produced energy to more important

destinations like New York City since it established the NYPA in 1957. Niagara county residents now find themselves paying the third highest electrical rates in the USA. With representation on the NYPA, Niagara county residents will be at the table when decisions about who should benefit from cheaper electricity grown in Niagara Falls are being made.”

The NYPA is the nation’s largest state public power organization with 17 generating facilities in various parts of New York State and more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines . Almost 80 percent of the electricity produced is clean, renewable hydropower.

The first vote on the Bill, S-2601 was voted out of committee on February 14, 2012 with a vote of 11-1.

The vote passed the Senate today 51-8.