

DCN: 7268

**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

Office of the Governor

Mark R. Warner
Governor

August 9, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 09 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, 2005 Defense Base Closure and
Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Received

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On August 8, 2005, Delegate Terrie L. Suit, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, wrote to you advising of steps that will be taken to codify, in state law, actions designed to address the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's concerns about long-term local community commitment to preventing encroachment around Oceana Naval Air Station (NAS). I support this action.

The cities of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Norfolk have worked closely with the Navy in the development of a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) to guide future development across the region, in a manner that balances the needs of all involved. The JLUS process, coupled with other ongoing discussions, have produced consensus. Furthermore, the involved communities have bound, through local legislative action, to implement the JLUS recommendations. Adding state-level codification, while unprecedented, is warranted and reflects the continuing commitment of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ensuring the continued viability of Oceana and its missions long into the future.

I remain confident that the facts fully support the retention of Oceana NAS, as they were clearly articulated by senior Navy officials during the site visit on August 1, 2005, and again during the hearing on August 4, 2005. This important step by legislative officials should eliminate your stated concerns about commitment and follow through once the BRAC process is concluded.

Please feel free to contact me or George W. Foresman at 804/225-3826 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark R. Warner".

Mark R. Warner

MRW/gwf