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*Senator Gilbert Baker
Senate Chairman*

*Representative Buddy Blair
House Chairman*

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
AND THE
HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH,
LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS*

June 20, 2005

Mr. Anthony J. Principi,
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Committee
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

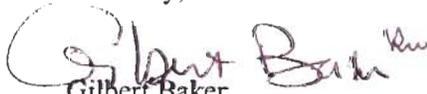
Dear Mr. Principi:

On behalf of the legislative members of the Senate Children and Youth and the House Aging, Children, and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs Committees, please accept this letter as an expression of our appreciation of your efforts to review the proposed BRAC closings/realignment for the 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

We respectfully request that you not approve the proposal to realign the 188th Fighter Wing. We are concerned for the welfare of the military and civilian, hardworking citizens of our community who would be negatively affected by these closings. We are also concerned for the economic impact such changes would have on the people of this area of the state.

Again, we appreciate your work on behalf of the citizens of our community, state, and nation. We hope you will consider our request as you continue to review this situation. If we may answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Gilbert Baker
Senate Chairman


Buddy Blair
House Chairman