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Manassas Park
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June 20, 2005

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



06242005

Dear Chairman Principi:

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) urges that the Commission convene a public hearing at the earliest opportunity in the National Capital Region to examine the impact of Department of Defense (DoD) facility recommendations on the District of Columbia, Suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia.

COG is an association of 19 local governments in the National Capital Region. At its June 8 meeting, the COG Board of Directors adopted Resolution R19-05 (enclosed), authorizing COG to analyze the regional impacts of DoD facility closure and realignment proposals and urging that the Commission convene a regional hearing for the Washington metropolitan area. COG concluded that the regional hearing scheduled for July 8 in Baltimore for Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware was insufficient to fully examine the possible DoD facility closure and realignment impacts unique to the National Capital Region.

COG understands that the Commission may be considering holding a regional hearing on July 7 that would focus on the interests of Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia. Such a hearing, if confirmed, would be most welcome.

COG looks forward to working with the Commission and its staff in the coming weeks and will forward the findings of our regional analysis shortly.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Davis
Chairman, Board of Directors

Enclosure: Resolution R19-05

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION AND
REGIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE BRAC PROCESS**

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2005, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) released its list of DoD facilities proposed for closure or realignment to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission; and

WHEREAS, there are significant implications to the jurisdictions of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) regarding future employment, transportation infrastructure needs, traffic congestion and air quality if the DoD recommendations are followed; and

WHEREAS, the DoD recommendations deviate from the criteria established for making such recommendations and appear to be applied inconsistently across the country; and

WHEREAS, the DoD recommendations were to have been based, in part, on the economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of the military installations, the infrastructure and sustainability of both existing and potential receiving communities, and environmental impacts of the proposed realignments and closures; and

WHEREAS, after considering all of the recommendations of the DoD and the underlying basis and consequences of each proposal, the BRAC Commission must report its findings and recommendations to the President no later than September 8, 2005; and

WHEREAS, after submission of the BRAC Commission report to Congress on September 23, 2005, (or November 7, 2005, if the President does not concur totally with the Commission's initial recommendations), its recommendations become binding if not disapproved by Congress on an all-or-nothing basis, making the BRAC Commission's recommendations difficult to change; and

WHEREAS, the BRAC Commission will have several regional hearings to hear from officials and citizens of the communities affected or threatened by the DoD recommendations, one of which will be July 8, 2005, in Baltimore, Maryland;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

1. COG staff, in conjunction with the Planning Directors and professional staff of COG's member jurisdictions, will analyze the regional impacts of the DoD proposals, particularly impacts affecting land use, transportation, transportation infrastructure costs (Constrained Long Range Plan), air quality and other environmental measures, consistent with current COG policy objectives and the draft work program tasks (attached).
2. In preparing these assumptions concerning the changes in public and private sector employment, including those changes proposed in regional activity centers, COG will seek a consensus of the jurisdictions' Planning Directors and representatives of the business and development communities.
3. COG will also project the short and long term economic and environmental advantages and disadvantages of the DoD proposals, including infrastructure savings or costs.
4. Because of the large number of proposed realignments and closures in the National Capital Region, and because of the potential significance of these recommendations, COG requests that the BRAC Commission

schedule a hearing in the National Capital Region to hear the specific views of the public officials and citizens of the Region.

5. To ensure that COG provides timely communication to the BRAC Commission, the congressional delegation and other governmental and private sector stakeholders, the Board authorizes the executive committee, with input from its BRAC task force, to transmit its findings should such action be necessary and time sensitive. Pursuant to Rule 2.16 of the COG Rules of Procedure and Rule 32 of Robert's Rules of Order, any policy position or recommendation by COG shall be considered by the Board of Directors, sitting as the Committee of the Whole either electronically or telephonically, with at least 24 hours notice to all Board members.
6. The Executive Director, in his sole discretion, is authorized to contract with one or more expert consultants to assist COG and jurisdictional staff in the analyses authorized above, such assistance not to exceed \$25,000, from currently budgeted FY 2005 funds. No additional funds are requested.