

Chamber of Commerce Harford County

June 22, 2005

President/CEO
William B. Securro

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Commissioners
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202



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Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce, I wish to express our endorsement of the Department of Defense's BRAC recommendations. As Maryland's largest Chamber organization, representing nearly 1200 members, the Chamber has maintained a strong partnership with Aberdeen Proving Ground for the past thirty years. The diverse Harford County business community stands ready to receive and accommodate the operations slated for relocation to APG, and will support the increased missions at the installation.

Aberdeen Proving Ground is not only the largest employer in Harford County but a large part of the fabric of our community. Those who are employed at APG contribute to the economic, social, cultural, and civic strength of the entire region, enhancing the quality of life for everyone. In turn, the community and region has easy access to outstanding educational, entertainment, social, cultural and retail amenities in Harford County and from Washington, D.C. to New York City.

For the past twenty-eight years, the Harford County Chamber of Commerce has held Military Appreciation Week to recognize and thank our military and civilian colleagues who serve and work at APG. The week culminates in a recognition luncheon held at APG which includes the support of over 200 military and business community members.

The Chamber's Board and I acknowledge that the Department of Defense has rated Aberdeen Proving Ground highly in military value. The Harford County business community is confident in its ability to accept the employees and families who would come to this area with the proposed realignments. We will work to attract engineers and support personnel from the large professional, technical, and skilled workforce in the region; and identify employment opportunities for spouses. The business community is planning accordingly and looks forward to the positive enhancements these changes will bring to our County and the region.

The Harford County Chamber of Commerce stands ready to assist the BRAC Commission in the accomplishment of your complex task. Should you have questions or desire additional information, please feel free to contact me at 410-838-2020 or ceo@harfordchamber.org.

Sincerely,

William B. Securro
President/CEO

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