

DELEGATE JOHN R. LEOPOLD

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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

July 1, 2005

Mr. Battaglia:

Please add the enclosed testimony  
as part of the public hearing record of  
the July 8<sup>th</sup> hearing at Goucher College  
in Baltimore County.

Thank you.

John R. Leopold  
State Delegate

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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

July 1, 2005

Hon. Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman, BRAC  
2521 S. Clark Street - Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

As Anne Arundel County is a growing center for the defense industry, with eight of the nation's ten largest defense contractors having offices here, and as the expansion of Fort George G. Meade is a validation of the growing importance of intelligence and technology in modern warfare, I strongly support Pentagon plans to realign the nation's military bases with its proposed shift of more than 5,000 jobs to Fort Meade.

Though some of the jobs at Fort Meade would be filled with transfers from other bases, the shifts would create high-paying positions that might be filled by Anne Arundel County and other area residents. The realignment would not only create on-base jobs but would bolster private-sector firms around Fort Meade and other bases.

With adequate funding supplied in part by federal financial incentives, Anne Arundel County is potentially well positioned to handle the influx resulting from this realignment. Planned housing and office space developments near Arundel Mills and the Odenton Town Center, as well as recent or planned transportation improvements to Route 32 and Route 175 and a potential Metro rail extension from the Washington area to Fort Meade, would offer an infrastructure that could ably facilitate the projected growth and help capture the enormous economic development benefits that realignment would bring to Anne Arundel County.

Realignment offers a great challenge, as well as an extraordinary opportunity. We must take the necessary steps to meet the challenge in order to reap the benefits of the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Leopold", written over a horizontal line.

JOHN R. LEOPOLD  
Delegate