



**CHESHIRE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

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June 29, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Chairman,

This letter is to express the concern of the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce regarding the proposed closing of U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London in Connecticut.

We understand that other business leaders in the State of Connecticut have submitted a joint letter setting forth their position on this matter. We join in their statements that:

- The unique and irreplaceable existing co-location and integration of strategic assets at U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London (submarine base, submarine training, underwater research, nuclear capable and deep-water porting, and proven world-class submarine production at Electric Boat) exemplify the ideal of alignment that best serves national military and fiscal objectives for sound base location.
- Transportation, housing, schooling, healthcare, commerce, services and amenities in the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London region provide essential and significantly customized support for the morale of those in the submarine service and their families.
- Commercial transportation, research and development, skilled workforce and related high technology in the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London region are unduplicated at any other site.
- The direct federal costs of closure and environmental remediation, relocation, re-creation of related infrastructure, services and amenities have been underestimated.
- The economic impact will be devastating, with the loss conservatively estimated at \$3.3 billion and 31,500 jobs that would double the regional unemployment rate.

We therefore welcome the independent review of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission and respectfully urge you to reject the recommendation for closure of U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London and reconstitution at a site without comparable "jointness and interconnectivity" at net additional cost to our national, federal defense budget, service families, and economy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James M. Miele'.

James M. Miele, President  
Cheshire Chamber of Commerce