



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF TEWKSBURY
TOWN HALL
1009 MAIN ST
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01876

JUL 13 2005

Received

JOSEPH P. GILL, JR., CHAIRMAN
JEROME E. SELISSEN, VICE CHAIRMAN
JOHN R. MACKEY, CLERK
CHARLES E. COLDWELL
JOHN F. RYAN

(978) 640-4300
FAX (978) 640-4302

July 5, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building
Suite 600
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

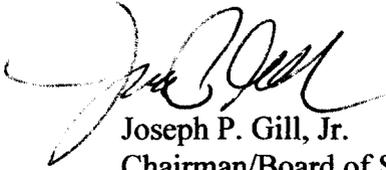
As a participant in the Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative (MassDTI), and on behalf of the Tewksbury Board of Selectmen, I am writing in support of the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations to expand Hanscom Air Force Base and preserve the Soldier Systems Center in Natick. The MassDTI, which is co-chaired by Senator Edward Kennedy and Governor Mitt Romney, is a public-private partnership created to preserve and expand the missions of these two unique technical facilities.

For decades, Hanscom and Natick have made significant contributions to the technological advancement that drives our nation's war fighting capabilities. The command and control technologies developed at Hanscom and the soldier systems advancements from Natick help give the U. S. military a technological advantage over every other military force in the world.

The successful track record of these bases can be attributed in large part to their proximity to the nation's top defense technology cluster that stretches from Southeastern Massachusetts into Southern New Hampshire, including the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts. This region possesses the critical mass of skilled workforce, experienced institutional and academic partners and research and development base to enable these facilities to thrive now and into the future. In particular, Tewksbury is home to a large Raytheon Integrated Defense System facility which contributes to the Hanscom Air Force Base mission. Additionally, with a large stock of affordable housing, Tewksbury is the home of many Hanscom employees, especially relocated personnel. As this BRAC process has proven, the Pentagon has a willing partner in Massachusetts to help create the future vision for these facilities.

By recommending the addition of more than 1,100 new direct jobs to Hanscom and retaining the core technology mission at Natick, the Pentagon has made a tremendous commitment to Massachusetts and its technological capabilities. I recognize that commitment and will do my part to help these facilities continue their critical work and grow for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Gill", written in a cursive style.

Joseph P. Gill, Jr.
Chairman/Board of Selectmen

cc: Robert Halpin
Selectmen