

WILLIAM H. FRIST
TENNESSEE



United States Senate
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

BRAC Commission

JUL 25 2005

Received

General Lloyd W. Newton (USAF, Ret)
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Newton:

As the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission continues its important work, I want to draw your attention to a matter that requires close scrutiny—the recommendation by the Defense Department to close Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota.

I have visited Ellsworth AFB and have always been impressed by its facilities, its personnel, and the support it receives from the local community. Ellsworth AFB has unfettered airspace, exceptional facilities and infrastructure, and does not suffer from the problems of encroachment that other bases now experience. In my view, Ellsworth AFB has excellent potential to serve as a multi-mission platform, or as a hub for future research, development, testing and experimentation.

The base and its units have a long, proud history of defending the Nation and advancing our national security. From the dark days of the Cold War to the Global War on Terrorism, the military personnel stationed at Ellsworth AFB have served our country well, and have always received the full and unrelenting support of the local community. Finally, I have concerns about the wisdom of consolidating all the nation's B-1 bombers at one base.

I urge you to give full consideration to Ellsworth AFB, including its unique characteristics and unlimited potential, before the BRAC Commission prepares its final recommendations. I think you will find, as I have, that Ellsworth AFB has a critical role to play in the 21st Century in our Nation's defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Frist".

William H. Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate

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TENNESSEE



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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., (USN, Ret)
2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Admiral Gehman:

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I have visited Ellsworth AFB and have always been impressed by its facilities, its personnel, and the support it receives from the local community. Ellsworth AFB has unfettered airspace, exceptional facilities and infrastructure, and does not suffer from the problems of encroachment that other bases now experience. In my view, Ellsworth AFB has excellent potential to serve as a multi-mission platform, or as a hub for future research, development, testing and experimentation.

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I urge you to give full consideration to Ellsworth AFB, including its unique characteristics and unlimited potential, before the BRAC Commission prepares its final recommendations. I think you will find, as I have, that Ellsworth AFB has a critical role to play in the 21st Century in our Nation's defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Frist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William H. Frist M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate