



Commonwealth of Virginia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RICHMOND

July 27, 2005

Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to express our full support for the testimony and positions of the elected officials and leaders from Northern Virginia at the hearing in Arlington on July 7th. We also want you to know of our deep appreciation of your willingness, interest, and extraordinary time commitments, not just to hold that extra hearing, but also for your personal efforts to meet with the directors of some of the key extramural military installations recommended for realignment. Given the exhausting pace and challenge your commission faces, we appreciate the many additional steps you have taken to ensure the integrity of your efforts and to provide for the best military value for our country.

Our most significant concern speaks to the points made so effectively by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner that the DOD recommendations on *leased space* so substantially deviate from the criteria established by Congress that your commission should completely remove leased space from consideration. That would retain the authority and ability of the Department of Defense (DOD) to address issues of co-location, consolidation, and anti-terrorism involving leased space; it would take advantage of not just the private sector, but also the commitments by the Commonwealth of Virginia and our Northern Virginia local governments to work together with the Pentagon—as we have since September 11th—to address its security concerns.

The recommendations, as proposed, on DOD leased space within the 100 mile radius of the Pentagon would have broad ramifications throughout Northern Virginia, affecting not just an important part of our economy and thousands of families, but also potentially adding significantly to the crushing traffic congestion in our region with the consequent deterioration of the region's air quality as commuters abandon mass transit to reach jobs in areas not currently served by the METRO system. The proposal to rely so heavily on criteria that is so overtly biased against leased space outside the criteria set in the law would clearly initiate significant disruption if implemented.

More importantly, we are apprehensive that the current DOD BRAC recommendations could have the unintended consequences of mission disruption and degradation on agencies vital to our national defense and fighting terrorism, while imposing unnecessary costs on taxpayers. Moreover, in the wake of your vote to consider the realignment of the Joint Medical Command Headquarters, we believe that will provide your commission with an opportunity to consider more suitable locations for the extramural installations that could avoid disruption of the synergy with other research organizations, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF). By the Pentagon's

own analysis, moving these agencies would harm mission effectiveness. At this critical time, when the nation is at war, the risk is simply too great to accept.

We hope your Commission will provide sufficient flexibility in formulating its recommendations to ensure that whatever actions it takes affecting installations in leased space will be in the best interest of national security and will accurately, objectively, and fairly assess military value—and that it will not preclude the consideration of options that better meet both military and taxpayer needs. We are confident that if this process is used, as intended by Congress, superior solutions, such those offered at the hearing, can achieve DOD's goals and enhance the nation's military value.

Your efforts on behalf of the country are appreciated, and we are grateful to have been provided the opportunity to respectfully submit our views.

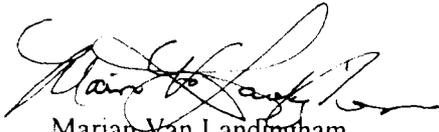
Sincerely,



Mary Margaret Whipple
Senator, 31st District



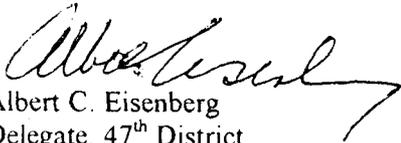
Patsy Ticer
Senator, 30th District



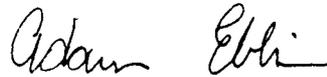
Marian Van Landingham
Delegate, 45th District



Robert H. Brink
Delegate, 48th District



Albert C. Eisenberg
Delegate, 47th District



Adam P. Ebbin
Delegate, 49th District