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One Hundred and Ninth  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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BRAC Commission

AUG 01 2005

Received

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

Dear Chairman Principi,

I commend you for your recent decision to hold a hearing regarding the impact that the Department of Defense's BRAC recommendations have on the missions and responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and our nation's Air National Guard.

As I have discussed with you over the past few months, the missions of DHS and the Air National Guard appear to have not received adequate consideration during the development of the BRAC recommendations. I am pleased that the Commission has decided to look into these specific areas in greater detail.

Houston, and in particular the 147<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Ellington Field, is a perfect example for the Commission to discuss at this hearing. As you may know, the BRAC recommendations call for the removal of the 147<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing's F-16s from Ellington. The F-16s currently protect many assets such as petrochemical facilities, the Port of Houston, Texas Medical Center, and Johnson Space Center. These assets are of critical importance to both the region and the nation as a whole. The decision to remove Ellington's F-16s would leave Houston highly exposed.

I look forward to monitoring the hearing on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Again, thank you and your fellow commissioners for your continued service to country.

Sincerely,



Tom DeLay  
Member of Congress