DCN: 3007

neccog

northeastern connecticut council of governments

125 Putnam Pike, P.O. Box 759, Dayville, CT 06241
860-774-1253, fax - 860-779-2056, email - nectcog@snet.net

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June 14, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Principi:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the eleven chief elected officials of the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG). We represent over 80,000 people from the towns of Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Sterling, Thompson, Union and Woodstock. The purpose of this letter is to urge you to reject the recommendation to close the submarine base in Groton. Our rational for this request is based on both the military importance of the base to our nation and the economic impact to Connecticut.

The location of the Sub Base provides many benefits to the Navy and our national defense. It is located in a "protected harbor" which offers protection from adverse weather. The co-location of the Sub Base with the Sub School and the various research and development tenant commands (more than 70) creates a synergistic effect that results in the "whole being greater than the sum of its parts." The close proximity of these entities results in the free flow of information and ideas that create greater operational efficiencies. The proximity of the Electric Boat Company's facility along with the company's unique Quonset Point, R.I. construction facility gives the base a distinct synergy for Navy production and operations. The Electric Boat Company has a variety of docks reserved for shipbuilding, refitting and repair along with barges, including berthing barges for the personnel of vessels undergoing refitting or repair. For a century, the Electric Boat Company has been at the forefront of submarine technological development and innovation.

There are 7,800 military personnel stationed at the base and over 650 reservists drill there annually. The base employs 1,400 civilians and over 1,000 contractors, (approximately 125 are located in northeastern Connecticut). Annual military and civilian payroll is approximately $452,000,000. The effect of the closure of the Sub Base would be an annual loss to the Connecticut economy of between $1.3 and $3.5 billion in GSP and approximately 14,000 and 31,000 direct and indirect jobs.

The actions taken later this year as the result of the BRAC process will have significant impacts (militarily and economically) to our nation and Connecticut. We believe that there is clear evidence that the Groton Submarine Base must be maintained as an essential element to our national defense and that its closure will be economically devastating to Connecticut.

Thank you for you consideration of our position.

Very Truly Yours,

David I. Patenaude
Chairman

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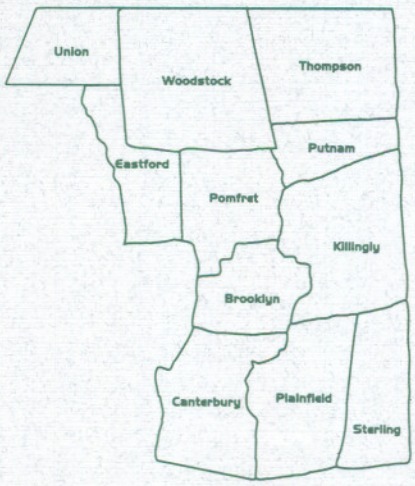

June 14, 2005

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Bilbrayi:

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Thank you for you consideration of our position.

Very Truly Yours,

David I. Patenaude
Chairman

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