



State of New Hampshire

DCN: 6261

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

BRAC Commission

July 25, 2005

AUG 01 2005

Received

Dear Commissioner Newton,

I write to you this day in an effort to influence your decision relative to the future of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. I write not only as a concerned citizen, but as a Representative to the General Court of the State of New Hampshire. Throughout its meritorious history "the Yard" has been a shared responsibility of its two neighboring states, Maine and New Hampshire. Not only has the responsibility been shared, but the work force has been shared by both states. The over two hundred years of service to the United States Navy does not qualify the installation for retirement. Its track record of efficiency and excellence puts it in the forefront of those facilities that should continue as the bulwark of the maintenance of our submarine fleet.

I feel a personal kinship with this revered facility in that I have been its neighbor for 76 of the 200 plus years of its existence. I was not about when President Teddy Roosevelt asked that the negotiations to conclude the Russo-Japanese conflict be hosted by Portsmouth, but I was part of the extended family in New England that was glued to the radio hourly to hear the first word of the fate of the men of the USS Squalus and the USS Thresher. The heroic efforts of "the Yard" in those instances only served to add to the luster of its past accomplishments and speak to its continued reliability for the future of our nation. Portsmouth has more than met those challenges and will continue to do so on into the new millennium.

In this, my appeal, I have played the "history" card, the cards of "emotion," and "pride", both regional and national. I have not referred to the cards that are in the hands of you, the commissioners. Those are the cards of accountability, cost effectiveness, preserving our nation's economy and maintaining our strong national defense. Those are the cards you must play to serve the future of the United States. Playing those cards will SAVE OUR SHIPYARD, AND THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Representative R. B. "Dick" Drisko
Vice Chairman, Election Law Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives.