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(as of January 27, 2005)

May 31, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, 2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

Last Thursday, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) voted unanimously to request that the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) schedule an additional regional hearing in Northern Virginia. NVRC is a regional council of local governments that includes the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William; the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; and the Towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, Purcellville and Vienna.

We applaud your courtesy last Friday in inviting Governor Warner, Senators Warner and Allen, and Representative Moran to listen to the military briefing on leased space proposals. Effective validation of BRAC recommendations requires that state and local officials have access to the full range of data used by the Department of Defense to create these recommendations plus the ability to offer the perspectives as to the accuracy of both the data and its interpretation.

These proposals by the Department of Defense concerning leased space have the potential of creating unanticipated consequences in terms of degrading military readiness and the Defense Department's ability to support our men and women in harm's way. In our view, these recommendations deviate from established BRAC criteria and merit close examination. We agree that military effectiveness can be improved by applying BRAC criteria consistently across the nation. We are concerned, however, that proposed dislocations could have grave consequences at a time when DoD can ill afford the potential loss of some of its most qualified defense scientists and technology experts. This would negatively impact on strategic military value.

In order to ensure objective evaluation of the data and assumptions, including any disparate treatment of leased space, we would strongly urge a dedicated regional hearing in Northern Virginia, as suggested by Senator Warner and others. Northern Virginia, more so than any other region of the nation, has made its support of the needs of the military a priority. Transportation, land use, quality of



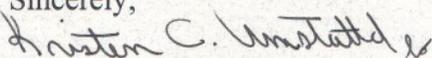
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life, economic development and all other community development decisions have been made with the needs of the federal government, and especially DoD, as a paramount consideration. In fact, since the 9/11 attacks, we have been collaborating with federal agencies, including DoD, to address security needs in a manner that is consistent with effective community development. We are not sure these initiatives have been adequately factored by DoD into the recommendations due to the wide and varied nature of leased space. Considering the substantial capital cost of military construction in Northern Virginia under DoD's recommendations, leased space in secure business districts served by appropriate transportation infrastructure more closely meets the needs of the military. We are prepared to offer important perspectives and would welcome the opportunity to inform the Commission of our analysis so that in the end the needs and objectives of all involved are met.

The 1993 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission established the precedent for holding single-subject regional hearings when it traveled to the City of Charleston, South Carolina (in May of 1993), for the express purpose of examining the impact of DoD's BRAC recommendations pertaining to that city and region. Therefore, NVRC respectfully calls upon the 2005 BRAC Commission to schedule a single subject hearing in Northern Virginia. To that end, NVRC would be delighted to assist the BRAC staff in locating and securing an appropriate site for those hearings.

We have been deeply impressed at the independence and commitment you have demonstrated already to other ideas and approaches that can achieve BRAC criteria and DoD objectives. We would very much look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,


Kristen C. Umstatt
Chairman

cc The Honorable John W. Warner
The Honorable George Allen
The Honorable Thomas M. Davis
The Honorable James P. Moran
The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
The Honorable Mark R. Warner
The Honorable George W. Foresman
The Honorable Owen B. Pickett
The Honorable Joe R. Reeder
NVRC Commissioners