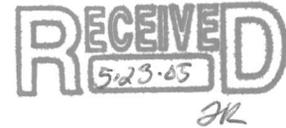




M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
06106



May 16, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi,

Thank you for your willingness to serve as Chairman of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (the "Commission"). There is no doubt that the Commission's undertaking is vital to the future defense posture of the United States. I hope you and the other Commissioners, including General Lloyd W. Newton, USAF (Ret.), will find this undertaking as rewarding as it will be challenging.

As you know, the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton has been included on the preliminary list of facilities, which are offered by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, slated for closure or realignment. I, along with our members in Congress, the leaders of the Connecticut General Assembly and the local officials and business leaders of southeast Connecticut know and understand how important the Groton submarine base is to the U.S. Navy's overall mission and Connecticut's role in that mission. While the need to evaluate military facilities for closure or realignment may be necessary, inclusion of the Groton Submarine base for closure or realignment is misguided.

In the coming months, a broad coalition of government, business and community representatives led by the SUBASE Realignment Coalition (the "SRC") will be in contact with the Commission to facilitate the exchange of information. John Markowicz, the Chairman of the SRC and a direct appointee of mine who I will designate shortly, will serve as Connecticut's primary points of contact and spokespersons representing the coalition of community interest affected by the preliminary decision to close the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton. The SRC and Mr. Markowicz have been excellent advocates for our state's military installations during the 1993 and 1995 Base Realignment and Closure proceedings, and I am confident that they will continue to perform commendably.

I would like to bring to your attention a number of critical points the Commission should consider as it undertakes the significant responsibility of reviewing the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure List for 2005:

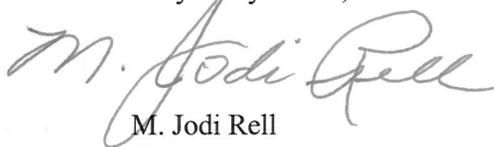
1. Communities preparing their response to the Commission must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to receive and react to all supplementary information made available to the Commission by the Department of Defense or other government sources after the initial release, *before* the Commission completes its deliberations.

2. The accuracy and reliability of data, particularly projected costs and savings for closure and realignment, in earlier rounds of Base Realignment and Closure considerations, was particularly troubling. In fact, crucial errors in calculations and methodology in earlier rounds were revealed as a result of the work of representatives of effected communities. The Commission *must* carefully scrutinize and consider any inaccuracies in data or methodology identified and validated as unreliable by community representatives.
3. It is my understanding that the Department of Defense sent individual "data calls" to multiple commands co-located on each base and installation. In evaluating the recommendations for closure or realignment, the Commission must take into consideration the value of synergistic relationships between these multiple organizations. While the existence of such relationships may not be clearly evident by the initial data calls, the contributions and values of such relationships to the efficiency and effectiveness of the nation's defenses should not be understated or overlooked.
4. The military value of a base is often enhanced by the presence of large local private enterprises such as shipyards. These invaluable resources have yet to receive any "data calls" and may not have been factored into the Secretary of Defense's recommendations to the Commission. I urge the Commission to ensure that this extremely important information is given complete and careful consideration and is not overlooked in its deliberations.
5. The Base Realignment and Closure Criteria include a category to evaluate the critical consideration of economic impact. It is unclear how the Department of Defense calculates economic impacts generally, or as created by the unique combination of the fleet facilities at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, the United States Submarine School and the Electric Boat shipyard. A recent Government Accounting Office report suggests the primary metric is on-base civilian jobs lost/replaced and does not include military and contractor personnel and data. Connecticut recently completed its own comprehensive economic impact analysis of the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, which I am forwarding to you for the Committee's consideration. The Committee should use the analysis to compare and verify data on economic impact submitted by the Department of Defense.
6. Another important component of the Base Realignment and Closure Selection Criteria is the cost of environmental remediation. The Department of Defense's method for measuring this selection criterion is vague. Specifically, it is difficult for the Department of Defense to quantify this component and determine an accurate, reliable estimate of actual, future environmental remediation costs in the absence of a "reuse" plan.
7. To facilitate information exchange between the Commission and organizations, such as the SRC, it is important that the Commission designate a point of contact on the Commission's staff to communicate with and to receive information relating to the U. S. Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton.
8. Communities that will be impacted by the Secretary of Defense's recommendations to the Commission have limited time to prepare and present a rebuttal of the Secretary's recommendations to the Commission. However, it is not clear the form and manner data will be made available to the public. It is my hope and request that the Commission ensure that the following data and records be released to the public via electronic media and/or the internet:

- a. Base Structure Data Base;
- b. Cost of Base Realignment Actions Model and all associated data;
- c. Naval Audit Service Independent Audit Reports;
- d. Transcripts, minutes and associated materials from all meetings of:
  - i. Infrastructure Evaluation Group;
  - ii. Infrastructure Analysis Team;
  - iii. Department of the Navy Analysis Group;
  - iv. Functional Advisory Board;
  - v. Joint Cross-Service Group;
- e. Department of Navy Base Realignment and Closure Information Transfer System data files;
- f. All data calls, including all supplemental/corrections requests, for:
  - i. Department of Navy Capacity Data Call;
  - ii. Department of Navy Military Value Data Call
  - iii. Department of Navy Cost of Base Realignment Action/Scenario Data Call
- g. Installation Visualization Tool Data and associated materials.

I believe, when the Commission considers these points and reviews the analyses of the military, economic and social contributions of the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London, which will be submitted by the SRC, it will conclude that the base is a critical component of the nation's defense infrastructure and should not be slated for closure or realignment. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and reactions as the Commission moves forward with its work.

Very Truly Yours,



M. Jodi Rell  
Governor

Enclosure: The Contribution of the Groton Naval Sub Base and the Electric Boat Company to the Economies of Connecticut and Southeastern Connecticut – Economic Impact Analysis, May 3, 2005.

Cc: Senator Christopher J. Dodd  
 Senator Joseph Lieberman  
 Representative John B. Larson, 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District  
 Representative Robert R. Simmons, 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District  
 Representative Rosa DeLauro, 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
 Representative Christopher Shays, 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
 Representative Nancy L. Johnson, 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District