



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

August 5, 2005

Mark R. Warner
Governor

BRAC Commission

AUG 09 2005

Received

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for holding yesterday's hearing concerning the Naval Air Station Oceana. We appreciate the opportunity to present the facts and believe the data clearly reinforces the Navy's conclusion that Oceana should remain open and its missions intact.

Comments were made yesterday, and have also been reported in the media, that you are entertaining a request from the State of Florida that they be afforded the opportunity to present to the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission a proposal concerning the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field. We believe this action would be unprecedented and is unwarranted in light of the clear statements by senior Navy officials that Oceana should be retained. Furthermore, Navy officials have also clearly indicated that Cecil Field is not a viable option for replacing Oceana, if the Commission were to ignore the expert opinions of the Navy, Department of Defense, and all other relevant facts and seek to close Oceana.

If the Commission affords Florida officials the opportunity to make such a presentation, then I respectfully request that representatives of the Commonwealth of Virginia be afforded equal opportunity to reinforce the facts about Oceana and to highlight existing opportunities in Virginia.

Acquiescing to the State of Florida's request will require that communities across the nation be given equal opportunities. If this is done, I request that other Virginia communities also be allowed hearing time to present directly to Commissioners alternative proposals relating to the BRAC recommendations affecting their communities.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark R. Warner".

Mark R. Warner

MRW/gwf