

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

BRAC Commission

**JUL 25 2005**

Received

July 20, 2005

Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC)  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I write to you today to thank you for publicly sharing your concern over the impact the base closures recommended by the Department of Defense (DOD) will have on the security of the Northeastern United States. Your statements echo what I and the Congressional delegation from Connecticut have been saying for months: The DOD recommendations leave the Northeast almost defenseless and essentially demilitarize this part of the country.

It is difficult to reconcile the decisions recommended by the DOD with a world that has drastically changed in the past 4 years. From the horrors in New York and Washington, D.C., to the latest incidents in London, it challenges rational thought to suggest that now is the time concentrate military assets in one location or to reduce or abandon the military presence in an entire region of the United States. We agree with your sentiment that the military should have a presence in every region of the country.

As I am certain you are aware, Connecticut has a number of serious concerns relating to the decision to close the New London Submarine Base. One of those concerns has been the underestimation of costs relating to closure and restoration of the New London Subbase. We were gratified to hear that the Chairman of the Senate Armed Service Committee, Senator John Warner (VA), and other public officials have joined Connecticut in its position that the DOD failed to sufficiently consider the environmental impacts of closing bases.

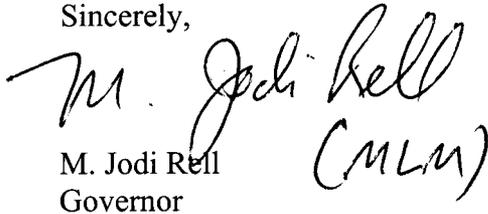
As I said in my testimony before you on July 6, "The DOD under estimated closure costs by at least \$31 million and left out clean-up costs of more than \$101 million." On Monday of this week, Team Connecticut presented over 300 pages of supplemental information to the Commission on the proposed New London closure. In that submittal, Commissioner Gina McCarthy of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection

documented over \$162 million in closure and environmental restoration costs for the base, well in excess of the DOD estimate of \$33 million. These unaccounted for costs, coupled with accelerated clean-up requirements due to prior agreements, call into question yet another significant component of the decision to close the New London Subbase. I believe that something is fundamentally wrong with the way the DOD handled environmental issues as it formulated its recommendations – and the problem appears to be systemic. This is clearly an issue the BRAC commissioners need to examine very closely.

As you proceed over the next few weeks in evaluating the data we have presented, I stand ready to provide you with any assistance in clarifying closing and restoration costs related to the Subbase. I am available at your convenience to share the State's findings relative to the DOD's miscalculations on these costs.

Thank you once again for being a strong voice for the protection and defense of the Northeast. We join you in the concern that the DOD closure recommendations will virtually abandon this part of the country and thank you for your leadership in bringing attention to this inequity.

Sincerely,

  
M. Jodi Reil  
Governor

(MLM)