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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 9, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi,

The 2005 Department of Defense recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission include relocating the Air Force Research Laboratory in Mesa, Arizona, to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, home of the laboratory's parent command, the Air Force Materiel Command.

The Air Force Research Laboratory is the Air Force's premier research and development arm for warfighter training techniques and technologies. Research is conducted using active duty fighter pilots. However, Wright-Patterson Air Force base has no tactical fighter units.

It would seem to make more sense and to be more efficient to have the research laboratory located at the Air Force's premier fighter training base, Nellis Air Force Base, where fighter pilots are readily available and where training techniques and technologies are also under development. The laboratory already works closely with Nellis ranges and fighter units. Transferring the laboratory to Nellis would complement and consolidate existing operations of both Nellis and the laboratory.

Thank you for your consideration of this suggestion. Please feel free to call on me or my staff should you have additional questions or concerns regarding this.

Sincerely,

Jim Gibbons
Member of Congress

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