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**United States Senate**  
 COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

August 12, 2005

Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
 Chairman, Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
 2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
 Arlington, Virginia 22202-3920

Dear Chairman Principi:

On August 11, 2005, I was notified that the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission will hold a hearing on August 20, 2005, to review proposals by the State of Florida related to the BRAC Commission's consideration to realign or close the master jet base at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia.

I find the announced additional hearings inconsistent with the straight forward assessment of the military value of Oceana in sworn testimony by the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mullens to the Commission on August 4, 2005, who stated: "I need now—your Navy needs now—Naval Air Station Oceana."

I am also concerned that the Commission, having taken actions to request plans from local communities, and now scheduling a hearing for the State of Florida to present its plans, appears to stand in violation of Section 2903(d)(E) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 which directs that,

"In making recommendations under this paragraph, the Commission may not take into account for any purpose any advance conversion planning undertaken by an affected community with respect to the anticipated closure or realignment of a military installation."

I have reviewed the public records released by the BRAC Commission to date related to the proposals by the State of Florida pending before the Commission. The proposals constitute, in my view, "advance conversion planning" for the potential relocation of aircraft to the respective local areas. Congress specifically intended for the Commission not to exhaust valuable resources and time reviewing complex promises and proposals from affected communities trying to influence the Commission's final deliberations.

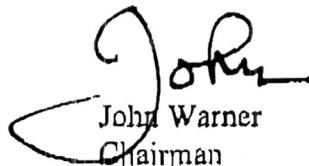
This development raises questions. Are you going to schedule additional hearings to review proposals or bids from other communities? Is it appropriate to have what may be perceived as a public auction at a time when the personnel and resources at Naval Air Station Oceana are serving the wartime needs of this nation?

Further consideration of these planning efforts threatens the integrity and the legality of the BRAC process and the final recommendations of the BRAC Commission. The BRAC law directs that the Commission must determine whether the Secretary of Defense deviated substantially from the force structure or the selection criteria, and legally complied with all provisions in the statute. This is the Commission's charter. The law clearly provides the parameters for your responsibilities and actions.

I urge you to respond to this letter as promptly as possible as I am in consultation with the local community and the Commonwealth of Virginia with regard to their legal rights.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



John Warner  
Chairman



**\*\* SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE \*\***

**Fax Cover Sheet**

<b>FAX TO:</b> Chairman Principi
<b>FAX NUMBER:</b> 703-699-2735
<b>PHONE NUMBER:</b>

<b>COMMENTS:</b> Letter from Chairman Warner
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<b>FROM:</b> Committee on Armed Services United States Senate Rm SR-228, Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-6050  <b>PHONE:</b> (202) 224 - 4928	<i>This transmission consists          of <u>  3  </u> pages, including          this cover sheet.</i>
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