

# Alaska State Legislature

DCN: 2506

**Chair**

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

**Member**

Labor and Commerce Committee  
State Affairs Committee  
Econ Dev, Int'l Trade & Tourism  
Education Committee  
Joint Armed Services Committee

**Finance Subcommittees**

Labor and Workforce Development  
Community and Economic Development  
Military and Veterans' Affairs



*A Communication From*

**REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN**

**Chairman**

**House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee**

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May 25, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure  
and Realignment Commission (BRAC)  
2521 S. Clark Street, Ste 600  
Arlington, VA 22202



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Dear Commissioners:

The Alaska House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs was designated in House Resolution 5 to conduct a "comprehensive review of issues involving military and veterans' affairs" and to "study issues." It is in accordance with this responsibility that we submit the following Sense of Legislative Committee on matters of importance involving BRAC in Alaska:

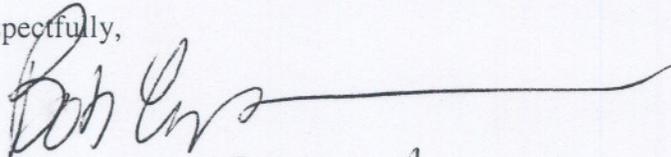
1. The primary concern must always be national defense and the security of the United States and Alaska. Alaska is strategically located at the "cross-roads" of the world. It is situated in a prime location to defend America against potential aggression from North Korea, the Peoples' Republic of China, and other potentially hostile nations. It is also in an ideal location to transport military personnel and equipment, and for refueling operations to any place in the Northern Hemisphere. Alaska also must continue to protect vital national interests, such as our missile defense, oil pipeline and terminal, and potentially a gas pipeline. Any mission degradation of military operations in Alaska could adversely affect the defense, security, and economy of every other state in the union, and well as our allies.
2. Military facilities and personnel (both military and civilian) are critical to the economy of both the state and local municipalities, second only to natural resources (which the

Letter/BRAC Commission  
 May 25, 2005  
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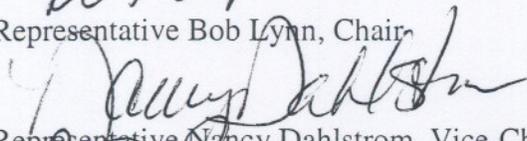
military helps safeguard). In addition, Alaska enjoys one of the highest percentage of military retirees and veterans of any state in the nation. As a result, Alaska is exceptionally friendly to the military mission and community. This is especially important during the "War Against Terror." We support our troops, because they support us.

3. Alaska is very proud of the history and tradition of the Alaska National Guard and Kulis Air Base in Anchorage. It is important that the Air National Guard maintain its individuality and identity wherever it is located.
4. The BRAC Commission is to be commended for its effort to bring about "lean and mean" military operations that advance efficiencies and maintain defense and security. It is important to identify where the costs of military operations can be reduced, in Alaska and elsewhere. The House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs recommends a thorough investigation and that extreme caution be exercised before major changes are made to military operations in Alaska.

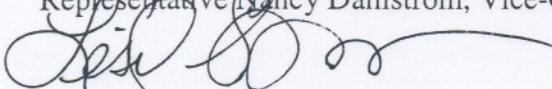
Respectfully,



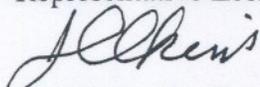
Representative Bob Lynn, Chair



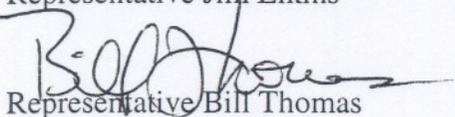
Representative Nancy Dahlstrom, Vice-Chair



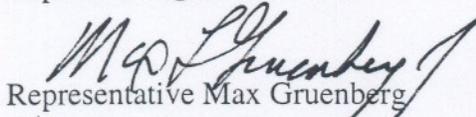
Representative Lesli McGuire



Representative Jim Elkins



Representative Bill Thomas



Representative Max Gruenberg



Representative Sharon Cissna