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April 27, 2005

James H. Bilbray
Commissioner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building, Suite 600 and 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

ORIGINAL

REC'D
4/27/05

Dear James,

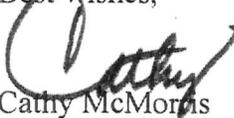
Congratulations on your appointment to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC). I appreciate your service to our country and realize the enormity of the job you have ahead of you.

I wanted to take a moment to share with you some information about Fairchild Air Force Base, home of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing (ARW). Fairchild, located 10 miles west of Spokane, Washington, is a modern, multi-mission base that is home to one of the world's largest air-refueling wings and four co-located units. These units include Washington National Guard 141st Air Refueling Wing; the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency; the 336th Training Group that operates the Air Force's only survival school; and Air Combat Command 2nd Support Squadron.

The information enclosed outlines the critical role Fairchild AFB is playing in the Global War on Terror. As the only active duty air-refueling wing west of the Rocky Mountains, Fairchild is well positioned for growth and future missions with 4,300 acres of well-managed land that is protected from encroachment and airspace interference.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I stand ready to provide you with any additional information on the many attributes of Fairchild AFB. Please don't hesitate to contact my office should you have additional questions.

Best wishes,



Cathy McMorris
Member of Congress

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