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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 8, 2005

BRAC Commission
The Polk Building, Suite 600
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioners:

Respectfully request the BRAC Commission recommend against the closure of the Portland Air National Guard Base and the transfer of the 142nd Fighter Wing to the East Coast of the United States. The closure and transfer will leave the 11 million citizens of the Northwest at risk to air attack from terrorist organizations and conventional geopolitical threats from Asian nation states.

Since the 142nd Fighter Wing will be transferred, not inactivated, there is absolutely no cost savings to the citizens of this country. From a strategic point of view, it appears the U.S. Government is willing to sacrifice the security of the citizens in Oregon, Washington and Idaho to the benefit of the population densities in the Eastern United States. Given the international air and sea routes in the Northwest this is a serious strategic and practical mistake that endangers the citizens of Oregon. Further, it appears to leave the Northwest defenseless to growing nation state nuclear and conventional threats in Asia.

I join nearly sixty of my colleagues in the Oregon House of Representatives in imploring your Commission to recommend against closing the Portland Air National Guard Base and transferring the 142nd Fighter Wing to the East Coast. The 142nd is the only fighter interceptor aircraft defending this nation from Central California to Southern Alaska.

Respectfully requested,

Brian J. Boquist
Vice Chair
State & Federal Affairs

