

DCN 3019

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Hon. Anthony Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure & Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

17 June 2005

We, the undersigned, are a group of veterans of the various military services of The United States of America. We have each served our country proudly and with dignity and honor. We are signing here as a way to ask you NOT to shut off and close the 142nd Fighter Wing of the Oregon Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve which are stationed at the Portland, Oregon International Airport. These F-15 fighters and KC-135 refueling aircraft are the safety net for the entire Northwest, and are strategically located to prevent attack against this corner of our beloved country. To station our nearest defense in central California and expect it to be even moderately effective against both direct attack and terrorist attack is beyond the scope of comprehension. Even with afterburner assist, it will take more than an hour to reach here and engage an enemy in combat. This is of course from time of scramble orders to arriving here on target and ready to engage. Contact any bomber crew and you will find that "Time Over Target" is a very very short time, and if you are intercepted after you drop your eggs, your mission has been a resounding success, regardless what happens to you following the drop. The homeland defense mission of these pilots, aircrews and backup personnel should not be terminated nor compromised in any way. Their mission is far too important to those of us living here in the northwest. They are here to intercept and avert any warlike strike within their strike and defend area. Please, do not compromise the safety of the citizens of the great northwest by closing this base and moving and removing these very vital aircraft and crews.

Asking your consideration  
Sincerely

*Harold W. Bushman Jr*  
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