DCN 966
Executive Correspondence

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

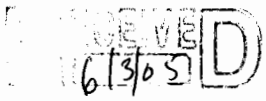
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

M. JODI RELL, GOVERNOR
CHRISTOPHER DODD, SENATOR
JOSEPH LIEBERMAN, SENATOR
NANCY L. JOHNSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS
ROSA DELAURO, MEMBER OF CONGRESS
JOHN B. LARSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS
ROB SIMMONS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

June 3, 2005

ORIGINAL

General James T. Hill
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202



Dear General Hill:

On May 31st and June 1st, Chairman Principi and Commissioners Coyle, Bilbray and Newton traveled to Connecticut to receive an in-depth briefing and tour of the facilities at Navy Submarine Base New London. From what we observed, the visit was very constructive, providing invaluable insight for Commissioners and staff into the base's profound military value.

We therefore wish to extend an invitation to you as well, to see first-hand the extensive capabilities available at this installation. We strongly believe that such a visit is the best way to fully understand the unique synergies that exist among the base's various components and with our nation's premier submarine builder, General Dynamics Electric Boat, located just a very distance from the base.

We understand that you are operating under a very constrained schedule, and have a limited time to visit military facilities throughout the country marked for closure and realignment. However, given the gravity of the Pentagon's decision to close down Navy Submarine Base New London, and the dangerous impact we believe such a closure would have on U.S. national security, we hope that you will consider making the trip to southeastern Connecticut at your earliest convenience.

It is our belief that the Department of Defense and the Navy grossly underestimated this base's military value and vastly overestimated the calculated cost savings that would arise from eliminating and then re-constituting elsewhere, facilities such as the Navy Submarine School, the submarine piers, and the Navy Submarine Support Facility that comprise Navy Submarine Base New London.

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We hope and believe that by seeing these facilities in operation, you, too, will come to the same conclusions. We therefore appreciate your consideration, and look forward to making arrangements for your visit.

Sincerely,

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
Senator

JOE LIEBERMAN
Senator

NANCY L. JOHNSON
Representative, 5th District

CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Representative, 4th District

ROSA DeLAURO
Representative, 3rd District

JOHN B. LARSON
Representative, 1st District

ROBERT SIMMONS
Representative, 2nd District