

7 Oak Tree Lane
Malvern, Pa 19355
September 4, 2005

SEP 08 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Closure & Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

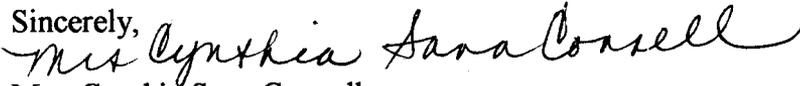
I am writing to support keeping Willow Grove Air Base open. As a mother, future grandmother, wife of a retired U.S. Treasury Department criminal investigator, and 18+ year experienced educator, I firmly believe that Willow Grove Air Base needs to be operating at full speed for all of us to have a great future.

For a number of years I lived in Willow Grove and admired the courage and bravery of those who were stationed at the Airbase. I am a 1971 graduate of Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster and remember seeing the military planes flying over the counties practicing their maneuvers. I am aware that the 111th has been of value to the Department of Defense and has been deployed 3 times in the last four years since 9/11. These are experienced flying units who have much to offer combatant commanders and the ability to protect our civilians. Everyday they risk their lives to help others.

No money amount can be placed on protecting our country. If it means raising taxes, then so be it; we all can afford to decide what material goods are needed vs. wanted. I remember how my grandparents lived without the material items that we have today and they were very proud to be Americans. They worked very hard for everything that they achieved. Without our freedoms in this country and our military trying to keep peace for us, the material goods won't matter because we won't be here to enjoy them if our military is not here to protect us. All of us should come together and try to work for the common good; one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all. The younger generation has no memory of bread lines and lines at gas stations to get x amount of dollars of gas. I pray daily that we don't have to go to those extremes again.

I hope I can count on you to make the right choice and keep the Airbase open. Our county, state, and country need to wake up and see where we would be without their service. I'll pray that the best decision is made and that Willow Grove will be there for my family, grandchildren, and all future generations as they have been there for us in the past.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to make an informed decision and that you realize just how important the Willow Grove Airbase and all of the personnel are to all of us.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cynthia Sana Connell