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An Integrated Energy Company

June 16, 2005

**David G. Mengebier**  
 Senior Vice President  
 Governmental and Public Affairs/  
 Community Services

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
 Chairman  
 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
 2521 South Clark St  
 Suite 600  
 Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing to voice Consumers Energy's support for retaining the Kellogg Air National Guard (ANG) base located in Battle Creek, Michigan as an active installation in the defense of the United States. The 110th Fighter Wing, which is stationed at the base, makes an invaluable contribution to the nation's security. In the last decade alone, the unit has served with distinction in areas of conflict that include Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

As the principal electricity supplier to this region of Michigan, we can tell you from firsthand experience that the base's economic contribution to Battle Creek and surrounding communities is every bit as critical as its contribution as a military force. The \$28 million a year revenue loss from closing the base would be a devastating blow for these communities, which already face the burdens of Michigan's struggling economy.

Furthermore, the unit's nearly 1,000 employees are valuable contributors to their local communities, and their training greatly enhances their value to those of us who employ them. A number of our own employees, past and present, have served proudly with the 110<sup>th</sup> – in fact, our former chief pilot was an A-10 pilot with the unit.

More than \$37 million has been invested in the base in the last 10 years. Relocating the unit to another facility over 100 miles away, with the likelihood of requiring significant investments for new facilities and training, makes little economic sense. It's likely that many of the unit's members will find the new distance too great to continue service; replacing them will be a difficult challenge in the current recruiting environment.

As a major corporate citizen of Michigan, we urge the Commission to remove the Kellogg ANG facility from the list of potential base closures so that the 110th Fighter Wing can continue with its mission of supporting the defense of the United States of America, which it has done so capably in the past. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Governor  
 The Honorable Carl Levin  
 The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
 The Honorable Joe J.H. Scharz, M.D.  
 The Honorable Mark Schauer  
 The Honorable Mike Nofs  
 The Honorable Lorence Wenke