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2005 Defense Base Closure & Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St. #600  
Arlington, VA 22202

RE: Closure of Eielson Base in Alaska

Dear Defense Base Closure & Realignment Commission:

Ronald Reagan once said something along the lines of how in times of immense peril we as a nation must maintain ready defense forces that are second to none. Of course the President was addressing the need for America to stand up and address the threats created by the cold war with Russia. Today in this post-9/11 era, as anti-American sentiment continues to rage and grow around the world the threat may be different but President Reagan's words ring more truly today than ever before.

We must provide our military the tools, resources and facilities necessary to ensure the safety and security of our nation, wherever the call may come from. I have always believed this was the first mission of our armed forces. That is why I am so amazed that Eielson Air Base, a facility that for years has been hailed by the military as a phenomenal all-purpose facility far exceeding military expectations has been slated for realignment. A base designed to handle both operational security mission at home and around the world, guarding and protecting America's early defense systems and oil infrastructure located in Alaska, as well as a premier training facility for joint training ops, Eielson has never failed to rise to the security needs of this Country.

We must not fail to heed the words of our former President. We must not allow accountants to dictate the needs of our military. To render an effective military and defense asset such as Eielson irrelevant to appease the bottom line creates the risk of costing America an infinitely higher cost in the future. I urge the Commission to see Eielson on the realignment list as the mistake it is and not close this base.

Sincerely,



Mayor Dianne M. Keller  
City of Wasilla