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COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
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READINESS  
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES  
RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
FISHERIES, CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE,  
AND OCEANS

April 22, 2005

Admiral (Ret.) Harold Gehman  
Commissioner  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
Polk Building  
Suite 600  
2521 South Clark St., Arlington, VA, 22202

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RECEIVED  
4/26/05

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

This is to offer my congratulations to you on your appointment as commissioner on the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. This duty is a monumental and service-altering mission; and all decisions will be painful for our nation and our communities.

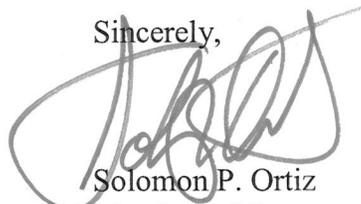
I look forward to having an ongoing conversation with you about the national security missions carried out by the military bases in South Texas over the next several months. The support the people of South Texas have shown for these facilities, their critical missions, and our national defense is unparalleled and we look forward to conveying this to the commission.

Your Navy background has prepared you to understand, and share with the other members of the commission, the military value our South Texas naval facilities provide to our nation. With your leadership, I am confident that the President's recommendations will receive a thorough and objective review.

I do not envy you in this role, but you do have my eternal respect for the patriotic task you play on this commission ensuring the needs of our service men and women are maintained.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Solomon P. Ortiz  
Member of Congress