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JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

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LANSING

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.  
LT. GOVERNOR

May 31, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

It has been brought to my attention by the Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission staff that Michigan may not be visited by any of the BRAC Commissioners in the coming months nor will Michigan's communities be invited to participate in any of the upcoming regional hearings. As you know, two Michigan facilities, the Army Garrison at Selfridge Air National Guard base and Kellogg Air National Guard base in Battle Creek, are recommended for closure by the Department of Defense (DOD). According to DOD, these facilities would cost their affected communities 574 jobs, and DOD has included them among the 33 'major' closures announced on May 13th. Considering the importance of these facilities to the military and to our local communities, I am very concerned that the BRAC Commission would not even give them a chance to make their case for why they should remain open.

These installations play critical roles in the U.S. military and in their respective communities. In the case of Battle Creek, the Kellogg Air Field has supported the A-10s for over 14 years. The 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing has performed exemplarily in action in Desert Storm through the current operations in Iraq. This Air National Guard base is located adjacent to a state-of-the-art National Guard training facility that serves the Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois National Guard and is regularly used by the Air National Guard for a wide range of training activities. The closure of this facility will represent a direct loss of 274 full time jobs – 68 military and 206 civilian. This figure, however, does not include the indirect job losses, which could add an additional 160 jobs to the aggregate, or the loss of part-time National Guard positions, which would impact over 883 part-time Michigan Air National Guard members.

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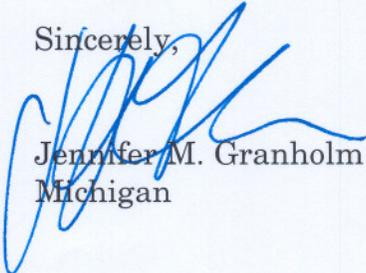
The Selfridge Army Garrison is the key service support facility at Selfridge Air National Guard base and the surrounding community. This facility serves as the only support facility for many of the military workers at the Detroit Arsenal, which is located to the south of Selfridge. In addition to the Army, the Garrison supports the Air and Army National Guard, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and the several agencies from the Department of Homeland Security. The DOD's recommendation represents a total loss of 300 jobs – 126 military and 174 civilian. The loss of this facility and its services will represent a major loss to this genuinely joint facility.

It is critical for Michigan to receive site visits and participate in the hearings because the evidence used to evaluate the military value of both Selfridge and Battle Creek may have been uninformed or incomplete. The Pentagon may have underestimated the value that both facilities add to the mission of DOD in support of current military missions around the world and with the future transformation of the force. We also are concerned that DOD's internal process did not adequately review the strategic placement of Michigan on an international border and the ability to conduct air operations in clear space without the hazards of encroachment.

Only by visiting these facilities and allowing Michigan's communities an opportunity to make their case before the Commission can you fulfill your mandate to make an independent review and analysis of DOD's recommendations. I strongly request that each facility receive a visit by a Commission member, and that Michigan be given an opportunity to be heard by the Commission at the regional hearing in Buffalo, New York on June 27<sup>th</sup>, which is the closest hearing to Michigan's affected facilities.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please contact John Burchett, the Director of Michigan's Washington DC Office at 202-624-8805 to discuss this matter further. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Granholm  
Michigan

JMG:JB/sah