DCN 1314

ORIGINAL

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

As the Commission undertakes the enormous task of sorting through the base closures and realignments proposed by the Pentagon, I would strongly encourage you to schedule a Commissioner's site visit for the Idaho Air Guard Station at the Boise Air Terminal.

The Pentagon has recommended distributing all four C-130H aircraft from the 124th Wing to the 153rd Airlift Wing in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This move would eliminate a significant portion of the National Guard's airlift capabilities in the Pacific Northwest and have a considerable impact on our ability to protect and assist our citizens in the case of natural or manmade disaster.

The projected savings for this recommendation over a 20-year period amounts to only $1.7 million.

Given the significant impact this recommendation has on our ability to provide tactical airlift support to the Pacific Northwest, coupled with the relatively small cost savings, I would urge you to send a Commissioner to personally review the site.

Please have your staff contact Major General Larry Lafrenz to schedule a site visit. He can be reached at (208) 422-5242. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Commission has complete information with respect to the Idaho Air Guard Station.

Sincerely,

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

DK:dtl

STATE CAPITOL • BOISE, IDAHO 83720 • (208) 334-2100

DCN 1314

Office of Governor Dirk Kempthorne
Idaho Capitol
Boise, Idaho 83720
208-334-2100
dlehman@gov.idaho.gov

<<Principi.let.pdf>>