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**ORIGINAL**

May 20, 2005

The Honorable James Bilbray  
Commission Member  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
Polk Building – Suites 600  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

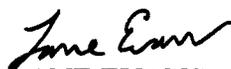
I would like to congratulate you on joining the Base Closure and Realignment Commission. I commend your spirit of volunteerism and public service.

As you know, Rock Island Arsenal, in my home town, has been devastated by the recent loss of nearly 1900 employees under the Department of Defense's recommendations for realignment. The Quad City's community leaders and congressional delegation have identified numerous errors in the data and justification used to make this recommendation and feel the Department of Defense has presented you incorrect recommendation. We are confident that if given a fair hearing by the commission, we will be successful in overturning these recommendations.

As a former colleague on the Armed Services Committee, I believe you will give the Rock Island Arsenal a fair hearing. Mr. Bilbray, I would like to invite you to personally visit the Rock Island Arsenal. The job loss in the community is significant and the Pentagon's justification seems to be questionable, therefore, I believe it is important that the commissioners visit Rock Island Arsenal and meet with community leaders to discuss this realignment.

I appreciate your service and look forward to your appearance at Rock Island Arsenal.

Sincerely,

  
LANE EVANS  
Member of Congress

**RECEIVED**  
5/27/05