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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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:

The Defense Department's BRAC press announcement contained a list of 33 "Major Closures" (DOD's list of those 33 facilities is attached). Of those listed, two were Michigan installations – the Army Garrison at Selfridge Air National Guard base and Kellogg Air National Guard base in Battle Creek.

These installations have played important roles in the U.S. military and in their respective communities. The Kellogg Air National Guard base has supported an A-10 Fighter Wing for over 14 years. That 110th Fighter Wing has performed superbly in action from Desert Storm to the current operations in Iraq. This Air National Guard base is located adjacent to a state-of-the-art Army 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 Selfridge Army Garrison is the key support facility at Selfridge Air National Guard base and the surrounding community, and it is the only support facility for the hundreds 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, Air Force Reserve, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and the several agencies from the Department of Homeland Security.

We believe that it is appropriate that the communities of any of these 33 facilities listed as major base closings by the DOD, upon their request, be given the opportunity to make the case for their facilities before the BRAC Commission and receive a visit from a member of the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Debbie Stabenow

Carl Levin

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