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Loudoun County, Virginia
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Board of Supervisors

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RECEIVED

July 12, 2005

Mr. Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of Loudoun County please allow me to express my full support for the testimony and positions of the elected officials and leaders from Northern Virginia at the hearing in Arlington on July 7th. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the hearing, but I want to thank you for the time and effort you have taken to meet with the directors of key military installations recommended for realignment. Given the challenge your commission faces, we appreciate the additional steps you have taken to ensure the integrity of your efforts.

Our most significant concern speaks to the effective points made by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner. We feel Department of Defense (DoD) recommendations on *leased* space deviate very substantially from the criteria established by Congress. We therefore believe your commission should completely remove leased space from consideration. That move would then retain the authority and ability of DoD to address issues of co-location, consolidation, and anti-terrorism. Removing this recommendation would also then take advantage of not just our large, vibrant private sector, but also the commitments made by the Commonwealth and Northern Virginia local governments to work together with the Pentagon-as we have since September 11th- to address DoD security concerns.

It matters to Loudoun because as proposed, the recommendations on leased space within the 100 mile radius of the Pentagon would have broad ramifications throughout Northern Virginia. This will affect not just an important part of our economy and thousands of families, but has the potential to add significantly to the crushing traffic congestion in our region. The proposal to rely so heavily on overtly biased criteria against leased space would clearly initiate significant disruption if implemented.

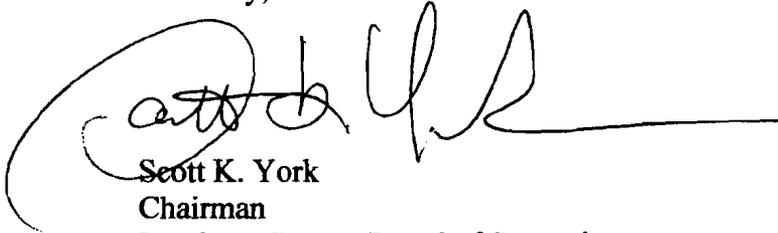
Finally, the current DoD BRAC recommendations could have the unintended consequences of mission disruption and degradation on agencies vital to our national

defense and fighting terrorism. We cannot afford to break the synergy with other research organizations, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF). By the Pentagon's own analysis, moving these agencies would harm mission effectiveness. At this critical time, when the nation is at war, the risk is too great to accept.

I hope your Commission's recommendations will provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that whatever actions it takes affecting installations in leased space they will be in the best interest of national security and will accurately, objectively, and fairly assess military value. We also hope that they will not preclude the consideration of options that better meet both military and taxpayer needs.

Your efforts on behalf of the country are appreciated, and I am grateful to have been provided the opportunity to respectfully submit my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott K. York", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott K. York
Chairman
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors