



**NELSON K. BOLENDER**  
 CECIL COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
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**JAMES M. HARKINS**  
 HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
 220 SOUTH MAIN STREET, BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014  
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**JAMES T. SMITH JR.**  
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 TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204  
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**ORIGINAL**

May 27, 2005

Commissioners  
 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
 2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
 Arlington, VA 22202

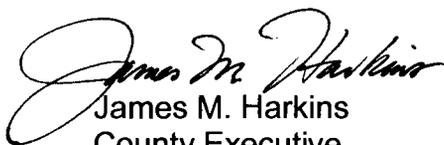
Dear Commissioners:

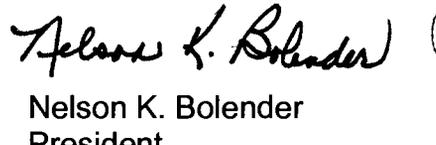
On behalf of the citizens of Harford, Cecil and Baltimore Counties, we wish you success in your deliberations on base realignment and closure. Simply stated, we endorse the Department of Defense's BRAC recommendations, and we stand ready to receive and accommodate the operations slated for relocation to Aberdeen Proving Ground. We are proud of our strong partnership with the Proving Ground that has developed over many years and our communities are well suited to support increased missions at the installation.

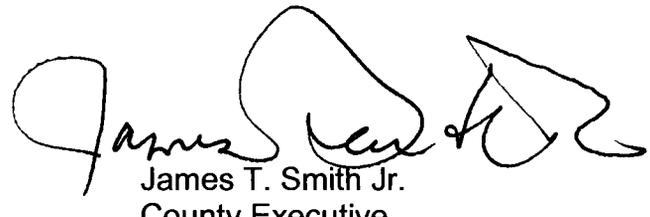
We know that the Department of Defense has rated the Proving Ground highly in military value. We are confident in our ability to accept the employees and families who would come to us with the proposed realignments and to draw from our large existing workforce if necessary. We have anticipated changes, planned accordingly and look forward to the positive enhancements this brings to this region.

In the coming weeks we will provide you with more information on the attributes of our area. Meanwhile, if we can assist you in the accomplishment of your complex task, please contact us.

Sincerely,

  
 James M. Harkins  
 County Executive  
 Harford County

  
 Nelson K. Bolender  
 President  
 Cecil County Commissioners

  
 James T. Smith Jr.  
 County Executive  
 Baltimore County

RECEIVED  
 5/31/05