

MARK R. CORRIGAN
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE



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Senate of Pennsylvania

June 23, 2005



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General James T. Hill, Commissioner
United States Defense
Base Closure & Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear General Hill:

Recently, the Senate of Pennsylvania adopted Senate Resolution No.130
of the 2005-2006 Session of the General Assembly.

As specified in this resolution, I am transmitting herewith a certified copy
to you.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Corrigan".

Mark R. Corrigan

MRC:bl
Enclosure

Senate of Pennsylvania



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HARRISBURG, PA

In the Senate, June 15, 2005

Whereas, The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, commonly referred to as the Willow Grove Naval Air Station, located in Horsham Township, Pennsylvania, has been recommended for closure by the Secretary of Defense; and

Whereas, The Willow Grove Naval Air Station, first commissioned in 1943 as a naval air base with 196 acres, now covers 1,100 acres and includes a joint reserve base, the only one in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that is home to Navy, Air Force, Army, Marine and Air National Guard units; and

Whereas, The Willow Grove Naval Air Station is one of only three military facilities in the United States that brings together branches of the armed forces to prepare for joint operations and is considered a model facility by some defense analysts; and

Whereas, The Willow Grove Naval Air Station is strategically located near all major metropolitan and port areas in the Northeast corridor, enabling fighters to be deployed within minutes to Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore and Washington, DC, which is critical to homeland defense; and

Whereas, Its modern 8,000-foot runway can accommodate any military aircraft, including Air Force One, and land commercial aircraft from Washington, DC, to New York in emergencies; and

Whereas, The Willow Grove Naval Air Station has a state-of-the-art radar system which is one of four digital air control systems in the United States; and

Whereas, The Willow Grove Naval Air Station is home to the 913th Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve, which trains and equips reservists to perform aerial resupply and also provides air logistic support for active and reserve Navy units; and

Whereas, The Willow Grove Naval Air Station is also home to the 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, that has the honor of being the oldest flying unit within Pennsylvania and has had many unit members deployed worldwide to support operations against terrorism since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States; and

Whereas, The Willow Grove Naval Air Station employs people from the Berks, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia County areas, and the closure of this base will result in the loss of economic activity and jobs; and

Whereas, A study commissioned by the Suburban Norsham-Willow Grove Chamber of Commerce determined that closure of the Willow Grove Naval Air Station will result in the area losing \$375 million in economic activity annually and more than 10,000 area jobs, including more than 7,000 jobs on the base; and

Whereas, Closure of the Willow Grove Naval Air Station will result in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania losing nearly \$7.2 million in State tax revenue and \$2.4 million in local tax revenue; and

Whereas, The surrounding communities support the mission and operations of the base; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has lost a greater percentage of positions in the four prior rounds of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission than any other state, with a total loss of 16,033 jobs consisting of 3,009 military and 13,024 civilian positions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania support maintaining the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove and urge the President and the Congress of the United States and all members of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission to support the same; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urge the President and the Congress and all members of the commission to remove the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove from the list of military base closures recommended by the Department of Defense; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and to all members of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution No. 130, introduced by Senators Stewart J. Greenleaf, Robert C. Wonderling, Edwin B. Erickson, Joe Conti, Michael A. O'Pake, Christine M. Tartaglione, Lisa M. Boscola, Shirley M. Kitchen, Jeffrey E. Piccola, John R. Gardner, Robert D. Robbins, John Pippy, Gibson E. Armstrong and Patrick M. Browne, and adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the fifteenth day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand five.



Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Corrigan".

Mark R. Corrigan, Secretary