

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

June 20, 2005

RECEIVED

06272005

Brigadier General Sue Turner
Commissioner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear General Turner:

It was a pleasure to speak with you prior to your visit to New Orleans on Friday. I'm sorry I couldn't participate but I appreciated the opportunity to share with you my concerns regarding the impact the Department of Defense's recommendations for BRAC will have on the New Orleans metropolitan area as well as the entire State of Louisiana.

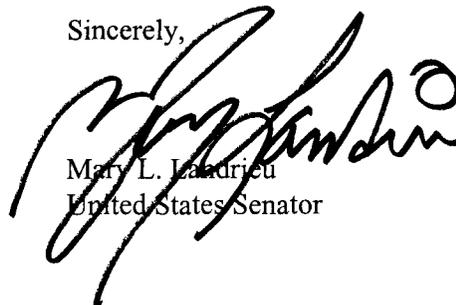
In our conversation you mentioned the plans the City of San Antonio has for the redevelopment of Brooks Air Force Base as a model for what New Orleans could be in the future. Plans for the redevelopment of Brooks AFB into a technology park have already resulted in the groundbreaking of its first major commercial tenant. This appears to be the beginning of a successful transition into a bio-technology economic development engine for San Antonio.

Similar to San Antonio, New Orleans has planned for several years to translate its own economic development strategy into reality in the form of the "Federal City" initiative which we discussed. This concept would streamline the functions of our national defense apparatus in the region into one operational foundation that will yield opportunities for improved wartime efficiency.

This is an important moment in the history of my hometown and Louisiana's largest city. With hard work and planning from all stakeholders in this process, I believe we will be able to provide the best possible solution to the people of Algiers, Slidell, and the greater New Orleans metropolitan area.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

MLL:mgt