

Executive Correspondence
DCN 5669



FAX TRANSMITTAL NOTICE

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TO: Chairman Principi
DATE: July 28, 2005
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Executive Correspondence
DCN 5669

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi,

On behalf of our constituents, we thank you for your service and the service of your fellow Commissioners to our country as demonstrated by your willingness to take on this important and difficult base realignment and closure process. This process is one of acute importance to our national security as it is critical to increasing combat effectiveness for our troops on the field, and further transforming the U.S. military to meet the challenges of 21st century.

It is our firm conviction that the Department of Defense's recommendation to minimize the number of industrial base sites performing depot maintenance for ground and missile systems is one that enhances transformation, combat effectiveness and the efficient use of taxpayers' money. The consolidation of missions, operations and required skill sets will improve the ability of the Department of Defense to transform the operating capacity of its base infrastructure to maximize warfighting capacity and efficiency.

There is a compelling need to reduce excess infrastructure. Excess depot maintenance capacity has been clearly shown by both the Secretary of Defense in his certified recommendations and by Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey in his sworn testimony before you. Failure to reduce excess infrastructure now, will result in a diminished ability to ensure our Nation's armed services readiness in the future.

We represent communities whose military installations are losing missions or have lost missions in the past. While we sympathize with the Red River Army Depot community, we cannot let that detract us from the existing need to reduce excess infrastructure. We support the Secretary of Defense's recommendations concerning our military depots, and we urge the Commission to approve them.

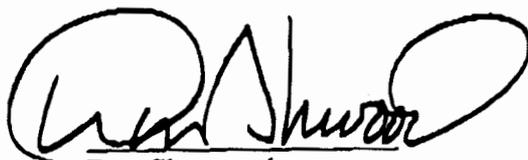
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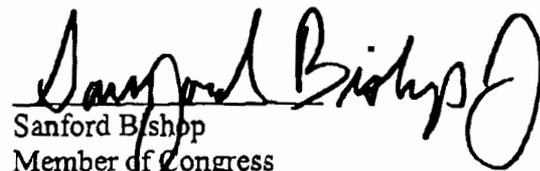
Again, thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity and make the hard but necessary decisions to improve and streamline our Nation's defense infrastructure. We greatly appreciate your service.

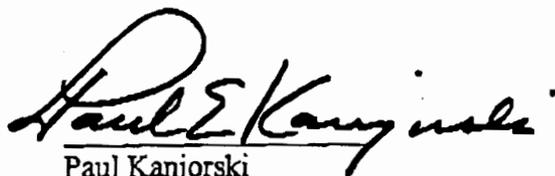
Sincerely,

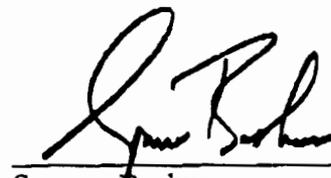

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress


Bill Shuster
Member of Congress


Don Sherwood
Member of Congress


Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress


Paul Kanjorski
Member of Congress


Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress