



DCN: 2417

## Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce

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June 1, 2005

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



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Dear Chairman Principi:

We the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, a regional organization representing ten towns and more than 570 businesses, join in expressing our concern that the proposed closing of U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London in Connecticut is clearly not in the strategic military, federal budgetary or national economic interests of our nation. We do so with profound doubts about the fairness, objectivity and thoroughness of the process that led to this recommendation but renewed trust in the work of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

We respectfully submit that:

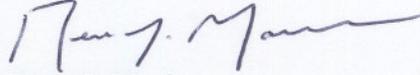
- The unique and irreplaceable existing co-location and integration of strategic assets at U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London (submarine base, submarine training, underwater research, nuclear capable and deep-water porting, and proven world-class submarine production at Electric Boat) exemplify the ideal of alignment that best serves national military and fiscal objectives for sound base location.
- In the age of global terrorism, any "all our eggs in one basket" approach to base consolidation especially endangers America's offensive and defensive capacity.
- Transportation, housing, schooling, healthcare, commerce, services and amenities in the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London region provide essential and significantly customized support for the morale of those in the submarine service and their families that is unduplicated at any identified relocation site.
- Commercial transportation, research and development, skilled workforce and related high technology in the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London region are also unduplicated at any identified relocation site.
- The direct federal costs of closure and environmental remediation, relocation, recreation of related infrastructure, services and amenities has been vastly underestimated and otherwise largely ignored.
- Other naval stations were completely exempted, bases ranked below U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London are left open, and irrelevant criteria inflated the ranking of other bases while key facts such as pier capacity were misrepresented.

*Connecticut's Northeast*

- The economic impact will be devastating with the loss conservatively estimated at \$3.3 billion and 31,500 jobs that would double the regional unemployment rate.

We therefore welcome the independent review of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission and respectfully urge you to reject the recommendation for closure of U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rene J. Morin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a red dot above the letter "i" in "Morin".

Rene J. Morin  
President