



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OREGON 97301**

June 9, 2005
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark St.
Arlington, VA. 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC members,

We have received the Department of Defense's proposal to remove the 142nd Fighter Wing F-15 aircraft from the Portland Air National Guard Base.

We are alarmed at how this recommendation renders the Pacific Northwest's eleven million people vulnerable to a terrorist-controlled airplane or offshore cruise missile attacks.

The 142nd Fighter Wing provides the only operational fighters with air-to-air capability to defend American skies from the California to Canadian borders. McChord Air Force Base, Whidbey Island Air Station and Kingsley Air National Guard Base do not provide that.

Only the Portland Air National Guard Base does.

Therefore, the DOD's recommendation to reduce the number of jets that defend the Pacific Northwest from 15 planes – to just two – is completely unacceptable.

The leadership of the Oregon Air National Guard and our congressional delegation will provide more specific details at your June 17 hearing in Portland on intelligence reports and logistical evidence for protecting this region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Minnis".

Speaker of the House of Representatives Karen Minnis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Scott".

House Republican Leader Wayne Scott

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Merkley".

House Democratic Leader Jeff Merkley



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| 1 Rep. Mike Schacht | 17 B. Lubi |
| 2 Rep. Steve March | 18 Cliff |
| 3 Rep. Larry Halze | 19 Mike |
| 4 new | 20 Betty Kony |
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| 12 Deborah Boone | 28 Gene Whysnant |
| 13 John | 29 Bruce Hanna |
| 14 Elizabeth Terry Dejeu | 30 John |
| 15 John | 31 Van |
| 16 Jane | 32 Bob |

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34 Andy Olson

35 Delbi Fall

36 John Jim

37 Ken Canen

38 Charles H. Bess

39 Patti Smith

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43 R. Thomas Butler

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45 Scott Braun

46 Mae Sumner

47 Susan Morgan

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49 Wayne Kyrja

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53 Rep. Donald G. Tulson

54 Gordon P. Carlsson

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