



STATE OF INDIANA  
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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Governor

ORIGINAL

Via facsimile 202-347-2044

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
325 7<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20004

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Dear Secretary ~~Principi~~ *Tolson*:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Indiana, military facilities and the Crane Naval Warfare Center during my recent trip to Washington. It was a pleasure to see you again, especially now that we have assumed different responsibilities. Although the context has changed from our days in the President's Cabinet, chairing the Base Realignment and Closure Commission demonstrates your continued commitment to public service, a commitment I greatly respect.

As I mentioned during our meeting, I also have great respect for the BRAC process, believing it has served our country well. BRAC provides ample opportunity for supporters to make their case on behalf of a particular military facility, and I intend to make the case for Crane forcefully, with all the many facts at hand. I truly believe that Crane meets the BRAC criteria for remaining open and fully operational, continuing its critical contributions to our nation's defense.

Crane's orientation toward joint projects represents an especially strong argument in its favor, as the military emphasizes flexibility to meet the threats facing the United States. With its available personnel and technical and industrial resources, operating in a highly cost-effective fashion, Crane can perform critical functions for all branches of the U.S. military.

Of course, there are many other reasons Crane's continued operation makes good sense, including its outstanding facilities and modern test-ranges, freedom from all types of encroachment, relative isolation from external threats, and interconnection with a variety of efficient transportation networks.

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Its importance in economic development also warrants prominent mention: Crane contributes to 8,000 direct and indirect jobs, accounting for \$368 million in related wages. A major economic engine in southern Indiana, Crane has an annual economic impact of \$1.5 billion – an average of \$1.7 million a day. Indeed, Crane's fate will no doubt be the most important economic decision facing the state for years to come.

As you know, Senator Coats will be working with us on behalf of Indiana during your commission's deliberations. Both of us appreciate his many years of public service, I am certain, and I have full confidence in his ability to represent the state throughout the BRAC process. The Senator will be following up with you and the Commission to provide further information about Indiana and Crane.

Thank you again for your taking the time to see me in Washington. I know the Base Realignment and Closure Commission process is a challenging one for all involved, requiring intense and comprehensive study, fair-minded appraisal, and an unending commitment to America's national defense. I thank you and your fellow commission members for undertaking this task, demonstrating a dedication that serves not just the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center and the people of Indiana, but our nation as a whole.

Sincerely,



*Really appreciate the time and courtesy.*