

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR**ORIGINAL**

May 26, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and Commission Members:

Almost two weeks ago, the Department of Defense (DOD) presented you its list of military bases recommended for closure or realignment and a report (Report). The Report did not include critical back-up data that supported the Report's conclusions. We write to you today, as the Governors of the impacted states, to request that you delay scheduled Commission base visits and hearings on the DOD recommendations until such time as the data supporting the Report is released.

To date, the DOD has failed to provide the critical data that substantiates conclusions and recommendations made in the Report to either the Commission or any of the states impacted by the Report's recommendations. As the process now stands, we have been informed that each base scheduled for closure will have one visit by at least two Commissioners and that each state impacted by a closure will have one thirty minute hearing opportunity before the Commission to make a case for the retention of their bases.

In order to have an informed discussion at the base visits and our hearings, it is critical that both the Commission and the affected states be knowledgeable regarding the reasoning and methodologies supporting the base closure decisions by the DOD. It is unreasonable for the DOD to expect the Commission or the states to have an informed discussion regarding their conclusions without any of the data that supports the recommendations contained in the Report.

In previous BRAC rounds, states were given ample opportunity to review the data supporting DOD's closure and realignment decisions. With that data, states were able to demonstrate inaccuracies and false assumptions in previous reports. In some cases, states were able to convince the Commission to reverse the recommendations of the DOD.

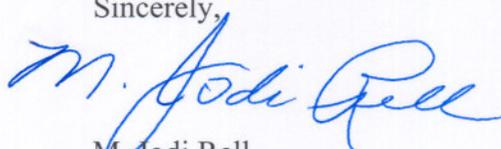
As Governors, we have been promised a process that is fair, honest and transparent. To date, we can not evaluate if any of those promises have been kept. Due to the serious

impact these DOD decisions will have on our economies and communities, it is critical that we be able to review all of the justifications for decisions contained in the Report. Only after the release of the data can we be assured that our limited time with the Commission is productive and that we best serve the defense of this country and our states.

In response to the DOD's delay in releasing the data, we do not believe that the Commission or the states are in a position to adequately evaluate the decisions made in the Report. Released Commission schedules indicate that some site visits will begin next week and that some hearings will be held in less than two weeks. As state Governors, we are formally asking for a minimum of a one month delay of both the site visits and the hearings, so that we may all have an adequate opportunity to review the data and to prepare to evaluate and discuss the decisions recommended by the DOD.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

M. Jodi Rell
Governor