Executive Correspondence
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STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BRAC Commission
JUL 15 2005
Received

ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.
GOVERNOR

July 14, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

I write to thank you and your fellow commissioners for the interest and attention given to our Maryland presentation on Friday, July 8th at Goucher College. We appreciate the complexities associated with these issues, and the emotions that accompany changes that impact so many communities. In the end, I know you will do what you believe is best for the nation.

In the short time remaining before you conclude your deliberations, Maryland will concisely amplify to the Commission a number of issues that have risen above others. Foremost among these is the proposed move of Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) functions to the Aberdeen Proving Ground. In coordination with our Congressional delegation and local officials, my staff will provide a detailed response to points made by those advocating a reversal of the BRAC recommendation.

We believe we can clearly demonstrate that the Army and Department of Defense were absolutely correct in their assessment that multi-discipline functional consolidations at Aberdeen best serve our nation, and through time will allow for the most efficient and effective fielding of systems essential to our war fighters. We will continue to address workforce issues, specifically what we believe to be an overstated concern about who might move and how those not moving will be replaced, as well as addressing what will be required regardless of location – finding bright, dedicated replacements within a workforce that will undergo significant changes as members reach retirement age.

We will also demonstrate that along with the use of vacated existing facilities, the Army's very aggressive use of public-private sector partnering tools mitigates a fair amount of the expense of new facilities associated with the move. Regardless, as you stated Friday, there are costs and opportunities at several levels, and how we can best provide for our men and women in uniform should remain paramount in our approach.

I wish you Godspeed as you move forward in the BRAC process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Best personal regards.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

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