

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 27, 2005

Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
The Base Realignment and Closure Commission
The Polk Building, Suite 600 & 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Chairman Principi:

It was a pleasure seeing you in Portland at the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) hearing on June 17, 2005. We hope you enjoyed your stay in the Pacific Northwest.

We wish to reiterate our strong support for the Oregon National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing and their continued deployment at the Portland International Airport. The realignment of F-15's stationed in Portland would significantly compromise the safety of the Pacific Northwest.

In this era of heightened threats from terrorists and rogue nations, the first priority of the federal government, and particularly the Department of Defense, is to ensure the safety of our fellow citizens from conventional and unconventional threats. The 142nd Fighter Wing plays a crucial role in protecting the entire Northwest Pacific region. Realigning the 142nd Fighter Wing throughout the country would make the citizens of the Pacific Northwest more vulnerable to such threats.

Our best wishes as you chair the BRAC Commission and address the complexities of this process. Should you need any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senate



Gordon H. Smith
United States Senate

Cc:

James H. Bilbray, BRAC Commission Member
Philip Coyle, BRAC Commission Member
James V. Hansen, BRAC Commission Member