



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RUTH ANN MINNER
GOVERNOR

August 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202-3920

Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the entire State of Delaware, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Commission for allowing us to testify at the regional hearing in Baltimore on July 8, 2005. We believe the Delaware Air National Guard plays an extremely important role in our national defense and we thank you for your genuine attention to our concerns.

As you know, we support the BRAC process and are encouraged to see it working as the Commission takes a closer look at each recommendation. Maintaining the effectiveness of the New Castle County Air base is crucial to improving our ability to protect the nation, and we believe it plays an important role in ensuring the safety of the millions of people residing in the Mid-Atlantic region. The loss of our 8 C-130 tactical airlift planes and critical personnel would have a devastating impact on the safety and readiness of our State.

We are also very concerned that the process used to evaluate Air Guard basis significantly deviated from the criteria. We have seen the July 14 memo prepared by your legal counsel and concur with the recommendations it contains. We believe that only by eliminating the majority of the Air Guard recommendations can the process maintain its legitimacy.

The Commission has a very difficult task weighing such a large amount of information in such a short period of time and we are truly thankful for your thorough consideration of New Castle's situation. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with the Commission. If we can answer any questions regarding our concerns, please let us know or have your staff contact our staff.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Minner
Ruth Ann Minner
Governor

Joe Biden

Joseph R. Biden
United States Senator

Tom Carper *Mike Castle*

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Michael N. Castle
United States Representative