

**Maine and NH
Chambers**

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110 Main St., Suite 1202
Saco, ME 04072
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299 Central Ave.
Dover, NH 03820
Fax 603-749-6317

Exeter Area
120 Water St.
Exeter, NH 03833
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Hampton Area
1 Park Ave., Suite 3G
Hampton, NH 03842
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Kennebunk/Kennebunkport
PO Box 740
Kennebunk, ME 04043
Fax 967-2867

Ogunquit
PO Box 2289
Ogunquit, ME 03907
Fax 207-641-0856

Old Orchard Beach
PO Box 600
Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064
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Greater Portsmouth
500 Market St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Fax 603-436-5118

Greater Rochester
18 South Main St.
Rochester, NH 03867
Fax 603-332-5216

Sanford/Springvale
917 Main St., Suite B
Sanford, ME 04073
Fax 207-324-8290

Somerset
58 High St.
Somerset, NH 03878
Fax 603-692-4501

Wells
PO Box 356
Wells, ME 04090
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Greater York Region
1 Stonewall Lane
York, ME 03909
Fax 207-363-7320



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March 2005

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy

Dear Sirs,

The best Shipyard should be the last to close.

I strongly believe the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS) should not be included on your list of recommended base closures for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closing round. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is of vital importance to our Navy and our Nation.

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is the leader in transforming the way naval shipyards do business. PNS has completed six successive major submarine availabilities ahead of schedule and under cost, making it the most efficient and reliable of all the naval shipyards, public and private, in the United States. This shipyard has turned tens of millions of dollars back to the Navy.

The recent concern expressed to the Senate Armed Services Committee about the growth of the Chinese Navy, much of it in submarine capacity, underscores the vital necessity of maintaining our own submarine capacity. No other Navy Yard can do this as well or as effectively as the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is simply irreplaceable.

I believe the best Shipyard should be the last to close! -- if ever!

Additional Comments: *"Save Our Shipyard for the Future" shouts "LISTEN" - Although we are engrossed in our present - due to affairs in the East - plus other areas of the world - eye must be on constant guard for our future.*



PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN THIS TO YOUR LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR THE SSA TODAY!