

DCN 1099

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
27TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

2470 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4327
202-225-7742

DISTRICT OFFICES:
3649 LEOPARD, SUITE 510
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78408
361-883-5868

3505 BOCA CHICA BOULEVARD, SUITE 200
BROWNSVILLE, TX 78521
956-541-1242

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4327

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MINORITY, MILITARY
READINESS
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
FISHERIES, CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE,
AND OCEANS

April 22, 2005

Honorable Samuel Skinner
Commissioner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building
Suite 600
2521 South Clark St., Arlington, VA, 22202

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4/26/05

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

This is to offer my congratulations to you on your appointment as commissioner on the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. This duty is a monumental and service-altering mission; and all decisions will be painful for our nation and our communities.

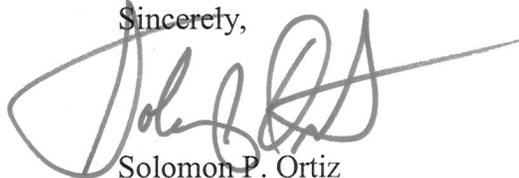
I look forward to having an ongoing conversation with you about the national security missions carried out by the military bases in South Texas over the next several months. The support the people of South Texas have shown for these facilities, their critical missions, and our national defense is unparalleled and we look forward to conveying this to the commission.

Your leadership experience will enable you to play a central role in executing the critical oversight function that this commission must play.

I do not envy you in this role, but you do have my eternal respect for the patriotic task you play on this commission ensuring the needs of our service men and women are maintained.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress