

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

DC#: 1190

ORIGINAL

May 25, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

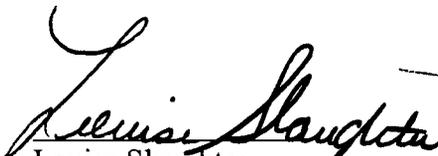
Dear Chairman Principi,

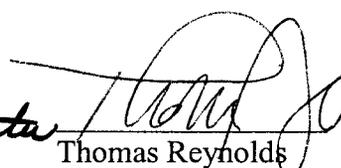
We write to request a staff-level meeting with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (Commission). The focus of the meeting would be on the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS).

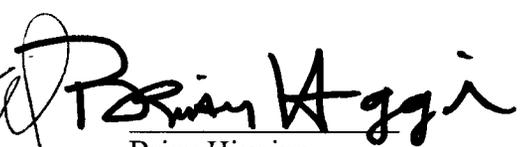
As you know, the Secretary of Defense has recommended closing NFARS. Under this proposal, the 914th Airlift Wing will become inactive and its C-130H aircraft will be distributed to the 314th Airlift Wing in Little Rock, Arkansas. The 107th Air Refueling Wing will become inactive and its KC-135R aircraft will be transferred to the 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor, Maine.

The Western New York delegation is concerned that the Department of Defense (DoD) did not appropriately assess the military value of NFARS, and erred in including it on the closure list. We are eager to express our concerns to the Commission and learn more regarding its criteria in evaluating the DoD's recommendations. Accordingly, we would appreciate the opportunity for representatives from our offices to meet with your staff ahead of the Commission's regional hearing and visit to the base. Thank you for your prompt attention into this matter.

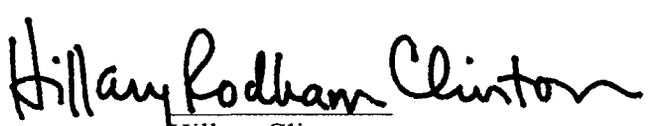
Sincerely,


Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress


Thomas Reynolds
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Charles Schumer
U.S. Senator


Hillary Clinton
U.S. Senator

RECEIVED
5/26/05