

J. Dennis Hastert  
Fourteenth District  
Illinois



BRAC Commission  
(202) 225-0600  
AUG 18 2005  
Received

Office of the Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

August 17, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 19 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
BRAC Commission  
Polk Building, Suites 600 and 625  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

As you and your Commission head into the final weeks of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, I ask that you strongly consider the case made by Team Connecticut against closing Naval Submarine Base New London.

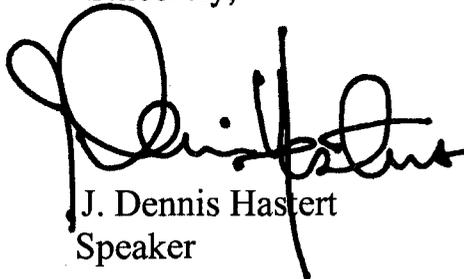
Over the past months, Team Connecticut has put forth a multi-pronged case against the Navy's plan to close SUBASE New London. One of the strongest arguments is recent data suggesting there is no real cost savings involved in the closing of SUBASE New London.

According to Team Connecticut data, the closure of SUBASE New London would actually cost the nation \$641 million over the next 20 years. As a fiscal conservative, I cannot support a base closing that does not provide taxpayer savings.

Moreover, closing SUBASE New London would eliminate a center of excellence for undersea warfare in which Congress has invested hundreds of millions of dollars over the last decade. Since my election to Speaker of the House in 1999, I have personally seen Congress invest more than \$120 million into the New London Navy base. Our nation's taxpayers would be ill-served if these investments in our national security are wasted.

Congress authorized the 2005 BRAC round to strengthen our Armed Forces. As the Speaker of the House, I take this responsibility seriously. Having listened carefully to Team Connecticut's arguments, I firmly believe that including Naval Submarine Base New London in the 2005 BRAC round would weaken our homeland and national security while providing no savings to our Nation's taxpayers. I urge you to remove New London from the BRAC closure list at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dennis Hastert". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker