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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133

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PLYMOUTH & BARNSTABLE DISTRICT

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DATE: July 5, 2005

TO: Base Realignment and Closure Commission

FAX #: 703-699-2735

FROM: Massachusetts State Senator Therese Murray

This fax consists of 5 pages, including this page.

Attached is a letter and a resolution regarding the Pentagon's recommendation to close Otis Air National Guard Base.

If there are any problems with this transmission please contact 617-722-1481.



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July 5, 2005

Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA, 22202

Dear Commissioners:

On September 11th 2001, our nation went through a devastating tragedy. After that horrific morning, every person in the United States felt a new kind of vulnerability -- that we were no longer immune to terrorism.

It was clear that we needed to change course on the defense of our nation, and we need to be up in the air ready in the event of another attack.

On that tragic morning, Boston was intimately involved, not only because the flights originated at Boston's Logan International Airport, but because the 102d fighter wing out of Otis Air National Guard Base were the first to cover the skies in New York and Washington.

Since that day, the 102d fighter wing has flown missions, protecting the eastern seaboard from Canada to Washington against terrorist attacks -- a task for which the location of Otis Air National Guard Base is perfectly suited.

In addition, they fly missions over the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, protecting it from a terrorist threat and the millions of people that live in and around Plymouth.

It is clear the moving the fighter wing from Otis is one of the biggest homeland security mistakes that can be made.

There are other consequences of moving Otis as well, particularly economic. Even though the Pentagon has said that only 500 jobs will be affected, they are not taking into consideration the other tenants of the base -- for example, the Coast Guard uses the runways that are maintained by the Air Guard -- or the jobs and economies of the surrounding communities. Closing this base would have major repercussions to the Upper Cape's economy.

I ask you to reconsider the closing of Otis Air National Guard Base and the movement of the 102d fighter wing. Keeping Otis Air National Guard Base open and the 102d fighter wing flying from Cape Cod is the right thing for the safety of the residents of Massachusetts and the nation.

Attached, please find a resolution signed by over two-thirds of the Massachusetts State Senate reaffirming the importance of reversing the Pentagon's recommendation to close Otis Air National Guard Base.

Sincerely,



SENATOR THERESE MURRAY
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Cc: Board of Selectmen, Town of Bourne
Board of Selectmen, Town of Falmouth
Board of Selectmen, Town of Sandwich
Barnstable Town Council
Barnstable County Commissioners
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates
U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senator John F. Kerry
U.S. Representative William D. Delahunt
Colonel Paul G. Worcester, MAANG, Commander, 102d Fighter Wing
Save Otis Coalition

The Massachusetts State Senate



Resolutions

URGING THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION (BRAC) TO REMOVE THE OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE FROM CONSIDERATION FOR CLOSURE.

WHEREAS, THE OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE PERFORMS A MILITARY MISSION OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE DOMESTIC SECURITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS AND THE HOMELAND SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES BY ACTIVELY PROTECTING THE NORTHEAST REGION OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ATTACK BY HER ENEMIES AND DEFENDING HER BORDERS FROM ILLEGAL ENTRY BY THE SAME; AND

WHEREAS, THE OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE WAS THE FIRST TO PROVIDE MILITARY AIRCRAFT, THE 102ND FIGHTER WING, IN RESPONSE TO THE TERRORIST COMMERCIAL JET HIJACKINGS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001; AND

WHEREAS, THE 102ND FIGHTER WING HAS PROVIDED FUNDAMENTAL AIR SUPPORT TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE POTENTIAL THREATS THAT HAVE ARISEN SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001; AND

WHEREAS, THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY EVALUATING THE 2005 MILITARY BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT SCHEDULE PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND WILL MAKE ITS SUBSEQUENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR; AND

WHEREAS, THE CLOSURE OF THE OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE AND THE CONSEQUENT WEAKENING OF ITS HOST MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY RESERVATION WOULD BE SEVERELY DETRIMENTAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE NORTHEAST REGION OF THE UNITED STATES BY JEOPARDIZING NUMEROUS ESSENTIAL MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY OPERATIONS, INCLUDING SECURITY AT THE NEARBY PLYMOUTH NUCLEAR POWER STATION AND COAST GUARD OPERATIONS ALONG THE COAST, AND WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY IMPACT THE ECONOMY OF THE CAPE COD REGION BY THE INEVITABLE LOSS OF MORE THAN 500 JOBS; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE HEREBY PRONOUNCES ITS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF THE OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE AND ITS MISSION AND RESPECTFULLY URGES THAT THE 102ND FIGHTER WING REMAIN AT OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE AND THAT THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION REMOVE THE OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE FROM CONSIDERATION FOR CLOSURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE TRANSMITTED FORTHWITH BY THE CLERK OF THE SENATE TO THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION.

SENATE, ADOPTED, JUNE 30, 2005.

Robert E. Murray

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

William F. Walsh

CLERK OF THE SENATE

OFFERED BY:

Therese Murray

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SENATOR EDWARD M. AUGUSTUS, JR.

Stella Bello

SENATOR STELLA BELLIO

Jarrett T. Barbers

SENATOR JARRETT T. BARBERS

Frederick E. Berry

SENATOR FREDERICK E. BERRY

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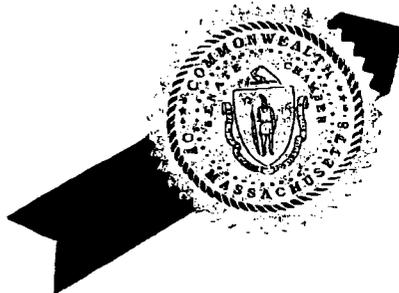
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