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June 28, 2005

Commissioners
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Support Recommendations Regarding Aberdeen Proving Ground

Dear Commissioners:

Cecil Community College fully supports the recommendations for realignment as they relate to nearby Aberdeen Proving Ground. Our college is one of sixteen publicly supported community colleges in Maryland. Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Cecil and has total annual credit enrollment of 2,560 and 6,213 non-credit.

Our main campus is located in North East, Maryland and is sixteen miles from the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) gate. For the last several years we have been gearing up for a challenge such as this:

Adding Capacity

- We have acquired a site and have begun preliminary planning for a campus at the former Bainbridge Naval Training Base in Port Deposit, Maryland. This location is about nine miles from the APG gate.
- Sixty acres of land is being acquired to add extensive long term capacity to our main campus in North East Maryland.
- This Spring we opened a 53,000 gross square foot educational center adding to our overall capacity.

Partnering

- The president is an active participant in the North East, Maryland Technology Council, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Science and Technology Board, and the Susquehanna Workforce Network part of the Governor's Workforce Board. All three organizations recognize the link between Harford and Cecil Counties in meeting workforce needs.
- We have a number of cooperative programs and ventures with Harford Community College, Bel Air, Maryland at its Higher Education and Applied Technology site in Aberdeen.
- We partner with the Cecil County Public Schools extensively. The public schools are engaged in a major improvement process. Graduation requirements especially as they relate to math have been bolstered significantly as but one example.

Office of the President

- The college has substantial articulation agreements with scores of colleges and universities and some strategic partnerships with some select universities and colleges Such as the University of Delaware, Drexel, Wilmington College, Towson University, and Harford Community College.

Aligning with Mission and Plans

- A few key points of our recently adopted *Strategic Plan 2005-2010* are: 1) growth, 2) regionalism, 3) building strength in the math and sciences, and 4) championing better access to all levels of higher education.
- Our college's mission statement includes economic development as a key component along side education, and culture.

We pledge the resources of Cecil Community College to make the proposed base realignment for Aberdeen Proving Ground as successful as possible.

Very truly yours,



W. Stephen Pannill, Ed.D.
President

cc: Harford County Economic Development Office
cc: Cecil County Economic Development Office
cc: Cecil Community College Board of Trustees