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May 27, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure And Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202-3909

Dear Chairman Principi:

We are extremely concerned about the recommendation of the Department of Defense to close the 440th ARS at General Mitchell Field. We are disappointed with this recommendation and believe that a full review by the Commission will demonstrate the military value of the 440th ARS.

It is for this reason that we are distressed that neither the governor nor the Wisconsin congressional delegation was invited to participate in any of the BRAC Commission's regional hearings. Therefore, we respectfully request to participate in the 21 June regional hearing in Rapid City, SD or the 23 June regional hearing in Grand Forks, ND.

The Commission's own press release reads:

"The regional hearings will provide the primary means for communities to educate the Commissioners and their staff on the disagreements with the DoD base recommendations. If a potentially impacted community feels DoD deviated from the selection criteria, the regional hearings will provide those stakeholders with an opportunity to be involved in the information-gathering process and present to the Commission how and why the DoD proposals are flawed or should be changed."

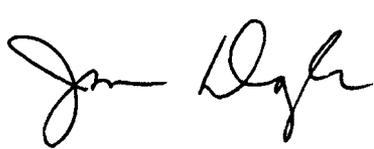
To date, we have not been contacted by any BRAC Commissioners or BRAC Commission staff as to how the State of Wisconsin can communicate with the Commission and discuss the proposed recommendation of base closures and realignments made by the Secretary of Defense. If the regional hearings are the primary means of communication, the Commission should include our state in one of the scheduled hearings or schedule a new hearing in Wisconsin.

DCN 1199
Executive Correspondence

We also request that the Commission honor its commitment to conduct a site visit for all major installations that have been recommended for closure. Site visits provide another opportunity for Commissioners to learn whether the Secretary's base closure analysis is accurate with respect to a targeted installation. We believe that the Pentagon incorrectly assessed the economic impact of closing the 440th at Mitchell International Airport. The Secretary's BRAC proposal contends that only 266 jobs will be lost with the closure of the 440th. The State believes that more than 1,800 jobs will be lost, not to mention the dollars that are currently being spent in the State from reservists who live outside of Wisconsin but travel to the 440th for their training (1 weekend a month, 2 weeks a year). Hence, with the potential loss of 1,800 jobs, we believe the recommended closure of the 440th ARS at General Mitchell Field qualifies as a major action.

We would be more than happy to host a site visit toward the end of June. We look forward to working with you and your staff to finalize the arrangements for both Wisconsin's participation in a regional hearing as well as a site visit to the 440th ARS at General Mitchell Field in Milwaukee.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Gov. Jim Doyle



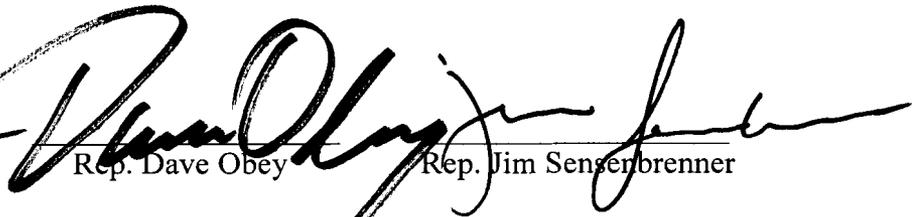
Sen. Herb Kohl



Sen. Russ Feingold



Rep. Gwen Moore



Rep. Dave Obey

Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner



Rep. Tom Petri



Rep. Ron Kind

Rep. Tammy Baldwin



Rep. Mark Green



Rep. Paul Ryan