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RESOLUTION 05-0524

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(GFCC) OPPOSING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION
TO REALIGN EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE**

WHEREAS the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce (GFCC) represents 800 businesses within the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the City of Fairbanks and the City of North Pole; and

WHEREAS based upon the BRAC selection criteria the GFCC is shocked and dismayed by the announcement that Eielson Air Force Base (Eielson) has been identified by the Department of Defense for realignment; and

WHEREAS Eielson is a vital and integral part of our nation's military mission, the State of Alaska and the Greater Fairbanks Area for more than 50 years; injecting millions of dollars into the local and State economy, providing a skilled labor force, and creating economic opportunity for a variety of businesses, large and small; and

WHEREAS the GFCC is concerned about the overall impact this realignment would have on the Greater Fairbanks Area and the State of Alaska; including the tremendous impact to local schools, retailers, and employers; we believe that Eielson holds a unique and important position to the overall defense of our nation which cannot be achieved by the placement of personnel and equipment elsewhere; and

WHEREAS Eielson is strategically positioned in the world, mere hours from any military mission within the northern hemisphere and the Pacific Rim and is the nearest air force base to the North Pole, making it a critical element of the nation's overall defense; and

WHEREAS Eielson offers security for the Ground Based Midcourse Defense program, presently under construction at Fort Greely, located only 80 miles to the east; and

WHEREAS Eielson's position provides protection for the Trans Alaska Oil Pipeline System which carries 17 percent of our total domestic oil supply; and

WHEREAS Eielson will provide that same security for the Natural Gas Pipeline when it is constructed; and

WHEREAS Eielson's access to vast training resources including; 60,000 square miles of dedicated airspace and its proximity to Fort Wainwright, home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, provides the opportunity for real-world, joint training; and

Benefactors

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Usibelli Coal Mine
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GREATER ★ FAIRBANKS
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

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WHEREAS the fiscal realities of maintaining Eielson in "warm" status will ultimately prove to save the Pentagon little in overall operation and maintenance costs, due in part to Eielson's strategic position related to reliable energy sources; its proximity with an existing rail connection to coal provided by Usibelli Coal Mine and aviation fuel provided by the Flint Hills and Petro Star Refineries; and

WHEREAS that the GFCC and the Fairbanks business community will provide relevant information, in support of the State and local task forces, to the BRAC Commission at the June 15th hearing.

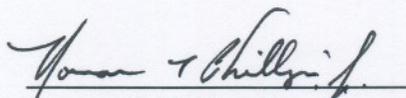
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce objects to the realignment of Eielson Air Force Base as proposed by the Department of Defense and requests that the Commission reverse the realignment recommendation and remove Eielson Air Force Base from the BRAC process; and

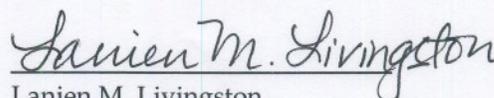
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED encourages the BRAC Commission to emphasize to President George W. Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld that Eielson Air Force Base is vital to the overall security of our nation and that the Department of Defense should seek to expand rather than diminish Eielson's strategic and unique position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to:

Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Congressman Don Young
Governor Frank Murkowski
Alaska State Legislature
Mayor Jim Whitaker
Mayor Steve Thompson
Mayor Jeff Jacobson
James Dodson

PASSED in Fairbanks, Alaska this 24th day of May, 2005, by the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.


Norman L. Phillips, Jr.
Board Chair


Lanien M. Livingston
President/CEO

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