



June 13, 2005

Chairman Anthony Principi  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I write you today on behalf of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, representing over 1100 employers, many of which will be affected by the results of your Commission's findings. In reviewing your Regional Hearing Schedule, I was disturbed to learn there were no meetings scheduled for Northern Virginia. This is deeply troubling to the Chamber and I ask that you reconsider.

As you know, Defense Department recommendations have Northern Virginia slated to see the both the largest reduction and the largest increase in Defense Department personnel. The implications of the realignment of tens of thousands of employees and their families will have profound and long-lasting effects to the region. Northern Virginia has been very supportive of the military and if the Defense Department plans to make drastic changes, a meeting here is a minimal request.

While we applaud BRAC for its decision to hold a series of regional hearings, a meeting in Baltimore on a Friday morning in the midst of the summer simply does not allow the public and stakeholders in Virginia an adequate opportunity to become informed and to voice their opinions and concerns. Furthermore, combining this hearing with other states that are greatly impacted by BRAC, such as Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia, dilutes the opportunity for Northern Virginians to be heard disproportional to the amount they will be effected.

When announcing the sites of the hearings you said they "will provide the primary means for communities to educate the Commissioners and their staff on their disagreements with the DoD base recommendations." This is a commendable principle, and all I ask is that Northern Virginia, its citizens and stakeholders have that opportunity. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Lecos', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Willam D. Lecos  
President & CEO

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