

DCN: 1152

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

ORIGINAL

May 18, 2005

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

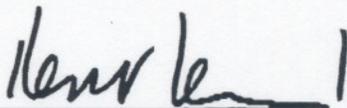
Dear Mr. Chairman:

We thank you for your commitment to review objectively and independently the recommendations by the Secretary of Defense regarding the closure of domestic military bases. Particularly commendable is your willingness to hold Commission hearings in areas which would be most adversely affected by the Secretary's proposals.

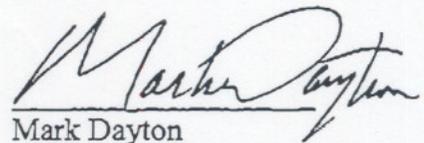
One of those regions is unquestionably Grand Forks, North Dakota, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, and their surrounding communities. The Secretary of Defense proposes to realign the Grand Forks Air Force Base by moving its tankers to other bases. His report predicts this action would result in the loss of 2,645 jobs directly and another 2,284 jobs indirectly.

A loss of this magnitude would be very hard for any region. Using the DoD estimate, this realignment would reduce employment in the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks area by 7.4 percent. Given this degree of economic consequence, we respectfully request your Commission to hold one of its hearings in Grand Forks/East Grand Forks. We believe that the Secretary's recommendation is misguided, and look forward to the opportunity to debate it before the Commission. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

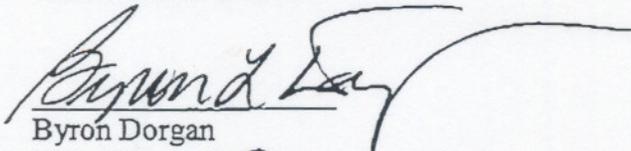
Sincerely,



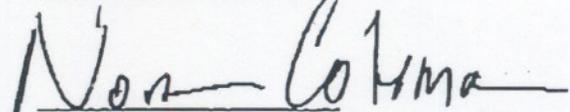
Kent Conrad
United States Senator



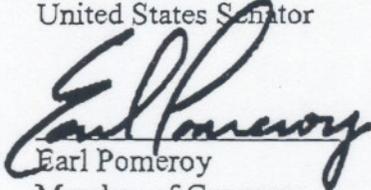
Mark Dayton
United States Senator



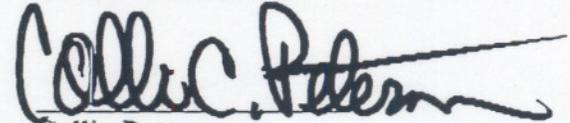
Byron Dorgan
United States Senator



Norm Coleman
United States Senator



Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress