

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

DCN: 1259

May 20, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building, Suites 600 and 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Secretary Principi:

On behalf of Connecticut's congressional delegation, we respectfully request a meeting with you and each member of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to discuss the recommendation to close Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE). We would also take that opportunity to answer any questions you or your colleagues might have about the base's value to the Navy, our national defense industrial base, and southern New England.

The SUBASE is a unique center of excellence for the submarine community. It's called "The Submarine Capital of the World" for good reason: No other region contains the SUBASE's valuable area assets. These include the Navy's submarine school, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, a highly skilled and dedicated workforce, dozens of top subcontractors and the world's preeminent submarine builder - Electric Boat.

Though we still await the full data, early indications suggest SUBASE New London was likely undervalued by the Department of Defense. Misjudged or ignored were several important factors, including the capabilities of SUBASE, the cost of replicating elsewhere its many assets, and the environmental cleanup costs should the base be shutdown.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these important points with you at length, and to underscore the importance of SUBASE New London to our homeland security, our national security and the livelihood of southern New England.

We also extend an invitation to the BRAC Commission to hold one of their regional field hearings in Groton - home of the SUBASE - as soon as possible. We are confident that the Commission will see the strong military value that makes the Naval Submarine Base New London truly the "Submarine Capital of the World."

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Sen. Chris Dodd

Sen. Joe Lieberman

Rep. Rob Simmons