

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

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June 17, 2005



Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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To All Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request that the 2005 Defense Closure and Realignment Commission ("BRAC") conduct a sight visit at the Hawthorne Army Depot located in Hawthorne, Nevada. The installation is slated to be closed completely in this final round of BRAC. We feel the recommendation of closure was based on inaccurate information regarding the mission of the depot as well as the economic impact to the community.

We specifically request that either a commissioner or a staff member visit Hawthorne as soon as possible. We trust in the BRAC's mission "to assess whether the Department of Defense (DoD) recommendations substantially deviated from the Congressional criteria used to evaluate each military base." In holding to this mission, we believe that a site visit will aid the Commission's assessment abilities and will reveal a "substantial deviation from the Congressional criteria" used to evaluate Hawthorne. A visit will allow depot personnel, as well as local business and community leaders, to better educate the Commission on evaluation inaccuracies and reasons why the installation should be removed from the closure list.

It is our understanding that in addition to military value, the Commission also considers the human impact when determining a base closure. We truly believe that only by visiting Hawthorne Army Depot, and the surrounding community of Hawthorne, will the Commission be able to accurately and fairly determine the "possible economic, environmental, and other effects on the surrounding communities."

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important request. We look forward to a expeditious and favorable response from the Commission.

Sincerely,

Jim Gibbons  
Member of Congress

Shelley Berkley  
Member of Congress

Jon Porter  
Member of Congress