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Local 195
International Federation of
Professional & Technical Engineers

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June 21, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

06262005



Dear BRAC Commission,

On behalf of the 6,500 state employees from New Jersey, Local 195, IFPTE is requesting that your decision to close Portsmouth Naval Shipyard be overturned. This action of yours will destroy the lives of hard working families throughout the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The Navy will lose these bright and talented men and women. And the children will be destroyed by this action.

How can the Navy close shipyards during this time of unrest? Why close during ongoing military operations? The Department of Homeland Security should have been against this because it puts America right behind the eight ball. No other facility on the east coast can duplicate these functions and duties.

Please do not be fooled by privatization or contracting out. It does not work.

It will not save money - Contractors will bid low and then raise prices after the bid is over. Quality will suffer - Contractors cut corners, pay low wages and provide few benefits to its employees; thus putting the men and the women who served in the Navy in jeopardy.

Please educate Local 195, IFPTE on why the Navy would want to close Portsmouth Shipyard when no other facility on the east coast can duplicate its capabilities? Did you know it's working with The Department of Homeland Security on providing homeport services and maintenance support to three U.S. Coast Guard Cutters?

Local 195, IFPTE respectfully urges you to reject the closure of these facilities and grant the opportunity to have a dialogue with the local unions, towns and communities to illustrate how this problem can be resolved without hurting workers, their families and national security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Ciccone".

Lisa Ciccone

Business Rep., Local 195, IFPTE

cc: Local 195, Officers

Greg Junemann, President of IFPTE

Terry Eleftherion, Vice President, Eastern Federal Area