

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

BRAC Commission

August 12, 2005

AUG 16 2005

Received

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me yesterday about the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations impacting the State of Maryland. The Commission has a challenging task ahead in evaluating all of the Department of Defense (DOD) recommendations and I appreciate your service to our Nation.

In Maryland, we are very proud of the military installations across our State. We are also very proud that DOD has recognized the value of our facilities by recommending significant expansions, particularly at Aberdeen Proving Ground and Fort Meade. Maryland stands ready to accept and support these new defense functions.

Our Congressional delegation, along with our state and local elected officials, have worked hard over the years to support and sustain our military installations and to ensure those who serve at these facilities, and their families, can enjoy a quality of life that is second to none. We have made significant preparations to ensure that our communities are "BRAC ready." Most recently, we secured more than \$20 million in the surface transportation authorization bill, which was signed into law earlier this week, to further improve the highway and transit systems surrounding Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Ground. We have also made substantial investments to improve the schools, child care facilities, and housing capacity surrounding these installations.

Over the last few months, detailed information has been provided to the Commission about the steps we have taken to prepare for BRAC. However, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Paul Sarbanes
United States Senator

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

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The Honorable James V. Hansen
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Hansen:

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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Turner:

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Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Gehman:

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Paul Sarbanes
United States Senator

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The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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