



DCN: 2629

# TOWN OF CONWAY

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June 14, 2005



RECEIVED

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
BRAC Commission  
521 South Clark Avenue, Suite 600  
Arlington VA 22202

06202005

Re: Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Town of Conway, New Hampshire, was disappointed to learn of the recommendation that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard be included in the Base Realignment and Closure Commission list.

The Conway Board of Selectmen strongly supports removing the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from the base closure list. Below are several reasons why we believe it is important:

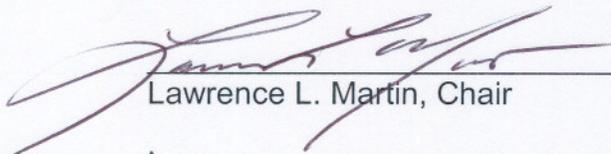
1. Portsmouth is the only active duty military facility in the State of New Hampshire. Military presence helps with future recruitment. New Hampshire and Maine, for their population, have a significant number of retired military personnel living within the states.
2. Centralizing depot maintenance may result in some cost savings, but decentralization prevents the loss/destruction of any one facility from crippling our submarine repair capability. Portsmouth has consistently proven they can accomplish depot repair for Los Angeles Class Subs on time and under cost. A cost benefit analysis of the operation would demonstrate the cost of maintaining the shipyard is more than made up in the reduced cost of depot maintenance.

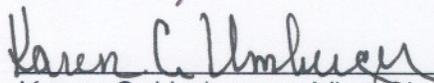
3. The health of the New Hampshire economy overall depends on the shipyard for both personal income of the employees as well as purchases made from the local economy.

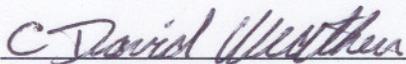
We urge that the BRAC Commission not support the Pentagon's recommendation regarding the closing of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. It is critical that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard continue to fulfill its mission as a military installation dedicated to our national defense.

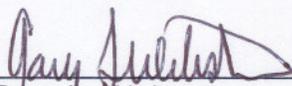
Sincerely,

CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lawrence L. Martin, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen C. Umberger, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C. David Weathers

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary L. Webster

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark L. Hounsell

cc: City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire