



TEXAS CHEMICAL COUNCIL

1402 Nueces Street • Austin, Texas 78701-1586 • (512) 646-6400 • Fax (512) 646-6420

July 8, 2005

BRAC Commission

JUL 14 2005

Received

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

The Texas Chemical Council represents over 85 chemical manufacturers in Texas with an employee base of 60,000 and a capital investment in excess of \$45 billion.

I am writing on behalf of my members to encourage you to keep the 147th Fighter Wing at Ellington Field in Houston as this seems the only way to safeguard not only the Port of Houston and our member's facilities, but our nation's economy and security.

The petrochemical industry along the Texas coast represents half of our country's chemical manufacturing production and 30 percent of the U.S. refining capacity. We depend on Texas ports, especially the Port of Houston, to receive feedstock and to ship our products. Any significant security event in the Houston Shipchannel region would have immediate negative impacts on our facilities as well as the economy and jobs throughout the nation.

The Texas chemical industry has made great strides in improving the security of our plants, but must depend on the additional resources provided by our armed services. A key element of this defense is retaining the full wing of the 147th at Ellington Field.

In closing, my member companies urge you to keep this vital security force in Houston. If I can be of further assistance in this effort, please contact me.

BRAC Commission

Sincerely,

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Ron Dipprey
President
Texas Chemical Council

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cc: Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
Sen. John Cornyn
U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay

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