

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 24, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write in regard to the Department of Defense's request for Congress to authorize an additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round. While we understand the desire to identify excess infrastructure capacity at our military installations in order to generate system-wide efficiencies, we believe the Department of Defense should first look to eliminate excess infrastructure capacity overseas before considering the closure of any facilities within the United States.

As we draw down from the war in Afghanistan, shift our strategic focus to the Pacific, and reduce active-duty personnel and equipment across the services, we believe it is prudent for the Department of Defense to reevaluate its current overseas basing structure to ensure we can maintain our operational requirements and strategic commitments abroad while also reducing costs in this budget environment. We understand the Pentagon has already ordered an assessment of our European infrastructure and we look forward to reviewing the results of those recommendations. With this information, Congress will be able to make more informed decisions regarding the necessity of additional base closures and realignments here at home.

Until the Department of Defense can provide Congress with a comprehensive plan for reducing excess capacity from overseas military installations, we will continue to have concerns with the Department of Defense's request for an additional BRAC round.

The military installations in our states have a profound impact on the families in our communities. We owe it to them to make sure we have realized all possible cost savings abroad before we consider another round of BRAC back home.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOAQUIN CASTRO  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PETE GALLEGO  
Member of Congress

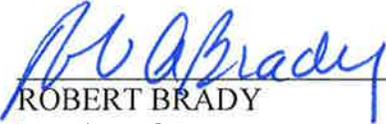
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARC VEASEY  
Member of Congress



RON BARBER  
Member of Congress



AL GREEN  
Member of Congress



ROBERT BRADY  
Member of Congress



GENE GREEN  
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress



RALPH HALL  
Member of Congress



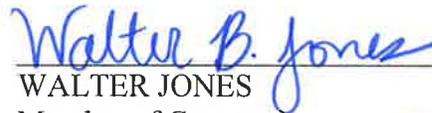
MATT CARTWRIGHT  
Member of Congress



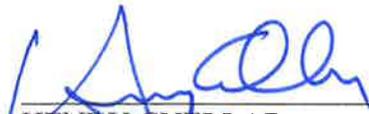
RUBEN HINOJOSA  
Member of Congress



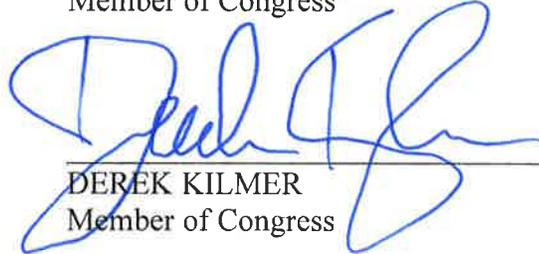
DAVID CICILLINE  
Member of Congress



WALTER JONES  
Member of Congress



HENRY CUELLAR  
Member of Congress



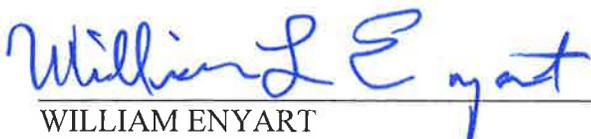
DEREK KILMER  
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MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
Member of Congress



WILLIAM ENYART  
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DAN MAFFEI  
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DINA TITUS  
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*Scott Rigell*

SCOTT RIGELL  
Member of Congress

*Juan Vargas*

JUAN VARGAS  
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*Lamar Smith*

LAMAR SMITH  
Member of Congress

*Filimon Vela*

FILIMON VELA  
Member of Congress

*Steve Stockman*

STEVE STOCKMAN  
Member of Congress

*Randy K. Weber*

RANDY WEBER  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Buck McKeon, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee  
The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee