

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 5, 2004

The Honorable Gordon England
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:


According to your SECNAV Notice 11000 of March 9, 2004, you will be issuing a COBRA scenario data call in mid-November in order to develop BRAC feasibility options along with cost and impact analyses for those options. As with the capacity and military value data calls conducted earlier, we seek to ensure that this data call is conducted in a fair and balanced manner.

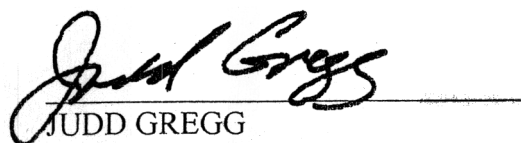
The March 23, 2004 report issued by the Secretary of Defense certifying the need for an additional round of base closures in 2005 found there is no excess shipyard capacity when comparing the FY2009 infrastructure capacity metric and the amount of infrastructure necessary to support the FY 2009 requirement based on infrastructure usage in FY1989. Therefore, we believe that given the "impossible to reconstitute" nature of our naval nuclear shipyards, the Navy should forgo a COBRA scenario data call with respect to shipyards.


If, however, the Navy believes it must conduct such a data call in order to exercise due diligence, we believe it would be unfair to conduct a data call that did not encompass every nuclear naval shipyard. Clearly, if the data are not collected for every yard at this time, it will not be available for consideration by the Commission later – in other words, our experience is that only those facilities subject to the COBRA scenario data call are subject to closure. Therefore, to single out any shipyard or combination of shipyards without evaluating all of them in a like manner would conflict with your memo of November 25, 2002 which states the Navy "must ensure that every Navy and Marine Corps installation is treated equally and fairly."

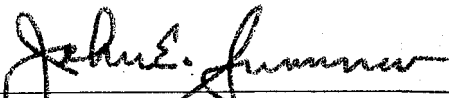
Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

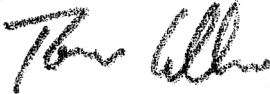

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United States Senator



JUDD GREGG
United States Senator


SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator

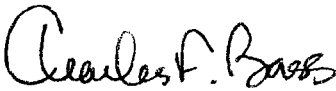

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