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June 1, 2005

National BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC Commission Members,

As President of Mitchell College, a private liberal arts college offering two and four-year programs in New London, I can speak from this region's very strong economic engine of higher education. Our region of Southeastern Connecticut, as you know, features 10 institutions of higher learning (Connecticut College, Eastern Connecticut State University, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, Mitchell College, Mystic Seaport, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Groton), Three Rivers Community College, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, University of Connecticut (Avery Point) and the University of New Haven (Southeastern Graduate Center)) that provide undergraduate and graduate programs in this region. All provide learning opportunities for learners of all ages.

Students are recruited from all over the world to be educated in this beautiful region. Mitchell College is proud to have students from 21 states and 7 foreign countries enrolled this academic year. Our College employs 195 people and we serve the needs of almost 700 students. But, most importantly, a closure of the Sub Base would directly impact the enrollments of all of these institutions. This region has a long history of having residents working for the Sub Base or businesses and vendors closely related to the Sub Base. But the many generations of Sub Base employees do end up working and living in this region for years to come. Thousands of their daughters and sons, nieces and nephews, spouses and cousins seek out their college degrees in the region they call home.

Business leaders, like myself, are genuinely concerned about the negative impact a Sub Base closure could have on this region. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Jukoski, Ed.D.
President, Mitchell College
Coordinator, Southeastern Connecticut Higher Education Consortium.

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