PAUL E. GILLMOR
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3505

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

May 3, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building
Suites 600 and 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Secretary Principi:

As the Base Realignment and Closure Commission makes considerations for the 2005 BRAC round, please allow me a moment to outline the many benefits provided to Northwest Ohio by the Toledo Air National Guard Base and the 180th Fighter Wing. The 180th Fighter Wing currently boasts 17 F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, a primary runway 10,600 feet in length and a secondary runway which is expanding to 8,800 feet in length. The Base employs 1,048 people including approximately 300 full-time employees. The airmen of the Toledo Air National Guard Base have served admirably in Operation Provide Comfort and Operation Northern Watch over Iraq in 1996, 1998, and 1999.

The Air National Guard Base has been in the Toledo area since 1955 and is strategically located between Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago and Cincinnati. The central location and calm climate of our area makes the Guard Base an ideal location for refueling and training missions. Its location also places the Base within a 30 minute flight time to roughly 50 million American citizens, making it tactically important to the defense of millions. In addition, the Base has existing ramp space stressed to handle heavy airlift aircraft up to and including the C-5 Galaxy as well as 13 additional F-16 size aircraft.

Annually, the cost of operating the Toledo Guard Base is only $21.0 million, with a $72 million replacement value. Currently, the Base provides $71 million in direct and indirect economic impact to the Toledo area and Southern Michigan. It has proven invaluable in the economic development of our area.

Northwest Ohio is truly an ideal location for the Toledo Air National Guard Base. Our area's low cost of living, quality and affordable healthcare, access to excellent post-secondary

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education and easy access by air, rail, sea, and surface transportation has made Northwest Ohio a perfect fit for the Base.

Throughout the BRAC consolidation process, I ask that the commission take into consideration both the defense and community development roles of the Toledo Air National Guard Base. The Base provides vital support to the people of Northwest Ohio. The community and I remain committed to providing the support necessary to secure the future of our Guard Base.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Gillmor
Member of Congress