



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

September 10, 2008

Mr. Stephen H. Devoto
P.O. Box 373
Middletown, CT 06457

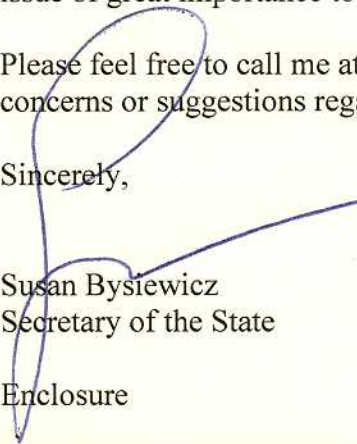

Dear Mr. Devoto:

I am pleased to forward copies of my most recent correspondence to Governor M. Jodi Rell and United States Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates regarding the placement of the BRAC army training center in Middletown.

I'll continue to keep you updated on future communications and initiatives regarding this issue of great importance to Middletown residents and the state of Connecticut.

Please feel free to call me at (860) 509-6200 if you would like to share with me any other concerns or suggestions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,


Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State

Enclosure



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

September 9, 2008

Honorable Robert M. Gates
U.S. Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to you on behalf of the State of Connecticut, the City of Middletown, and its residents with regard to the U.S. Department of Defense's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Report (BRAC) and its recommendation to construct a U.S. Army training center in Middletown.

As you may know, the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been actively working to identify an appropriate parcel of land for this facility. In accordance with the BRAC report, the training center would result in the consolidation and closure of numerous other military facilities in the state.

Along with state and local officials, the City of Middletown has recommended a least three sites to the U.S. Army that might be suitable for such a facility based on numerous considerations, including environmental, traffic and transportation, and other quality of life issues.

Although the City of Middletown and the State of Connecticut welcome this facility, there is growing frustration as to the lack of transparency and openness on the part of the federal agencies involved in the site selection process. Furthermore, it appears that the Army is conducting site assessments on parcels of land which would not be suitable for the proposed training facility.

Throughout this process, questions have been raised by state and local officials about the legal intent of BRAC Report May 2005, Volume 1, Part 2 of 2, Section 1 which outlines the detailed recommendations for the U.S. Army Reserve Component (RC) Transformation in Connecticut. Specifically, we believe that the language below clearly provides flexibility to the federal government to site the facility outside of Middletown if a suitable parcel cannot be found within the community. The language states:

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Honorable Robert M. Gates, U.S. Secretary of Defense
September 9, 2008

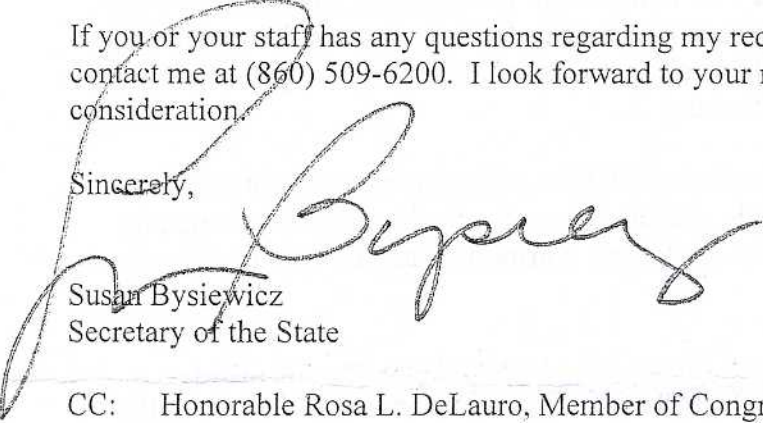
"Close the US Army Reserve Center, Middletown, CT, the Organizational Maintenance Shop, Middletown, CT; the SGT Libby US Army Reserve Center, New Haven, CT; the Organizational Maintenance Shop, New Haven, CT; the Army Reserve Area Maintenance Support Activity #69, Milford, CT and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center, Organizational Maintenance Shop and Army Maintenance Support Activity in Middletown, Connecticut, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities."

Citing an internal formal legal opinion, the U.S. Army Corps indicates that this facility must be built in Middletown, and that if a suitable site cannot be found, the facility cannot be built. Unfortunately, the U.S. Army Corps refuses to release its legal opinion to elected officials and community stakeholders.

Given the U.S. Department of Defense's leadership throughout the BRAC process, I strongly believe that a legal opinion from your agency regarding this matter would provide needed clarification as to the BRAC report's legal intent. As such, I – along with the residents of Middletown and its elected officials - would appreciate your assistance in providing a legal opinion on this issue at your earliest convenience.

If you or your staff has any questions regarding my request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (860) 509-6200. I look forward to your reply, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State

CC: Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Member of Congress
Honorable Sebastian Giuliano, Mayor, City of Middletown

