

TENNESSEE VALLEY  
**BRAC**  
COMMITTEE

April 23, 2013

To the Alabama Legislature:

The undersigned are members of the Tennessee Valley Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Committee, a coalition of nine communities in North Alabama and four in Tennessee. It is the responsibility of this Committee to promote the interests of Redstone Arsenal, particularly as related to BRAC decisions. Given the current federal fiscal environment, another round of BRAC is likely in the next two to four years. Education is one of the most important elements of the evaluation of the strengths of a community and whether such community should gain or lose in a BRAC round.

Redstone Arsenal is in a position to gain additional functions based on the cost of doing business, our workforce, current missions, and available space. More than 37,500 people currently work on the installation, commuting from 15 counties across the Tennessee Valley and representing a combined salary of approximately \$3.2 billion per year, an average salary of \$87,000. The Arsenal is responsible for more than 101,000 jobs when counting those outside the gates. The overall economic impact of Redstone is \$11.5 billion, which is the equivalent of 6 percent of Alabama's GDP.

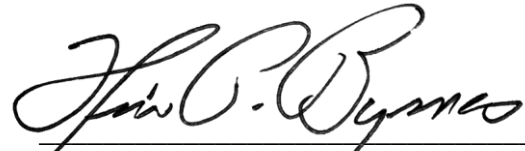
The 2005 BRAC was the largest economic development announcement in the history of Alabama. Unlike corporate projects, BRAC decisions are made by a commission, and one of the primary considerations is the ability of the community to support Department of Defense forces, missions, and personnel. The education of the children of military, civil service and contractor personnel is critical part of that evaluation. These students come from across the country and must be guaranteed a consistent, high-quality education. The Common Core State Standards, developed by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, assure parents that their children do not fall behind when transferring in or out of state, as many federal and contractor employees will do throughout their careers.

According to the Update to the Report on Assistance to Local Educational Agencies for Defense Dependents Education issued in March 2008, the Department of Defense considers the education of military students important to the military's operational readiness – a vital national security issue. Education is a key quality of life issue for the military, recognizing that service members often accept or decline assignments based on the availability of quality educational opportunities for their children. As the Department of Defense demands greater efficiencies and cost savings in its operations, further closures and alignments are going to occur. The success of Redstone Arsenal and other Alabama installations will be determined in part by the public schools serving these installations.

We supported the adoption of the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards as aligned with the Common Core State Standards in 2010, and we oppose the current efforts to repeal them. If the repeal

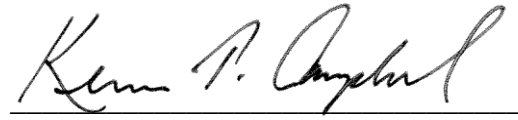
efforts are successful, we believe that Alabama will not only lose ground toward its academic and workforce goals, but it will also suffer economically with regard to Department of Defense decisions and subsequent losses at Redstone Arsenal.

Sincerely,



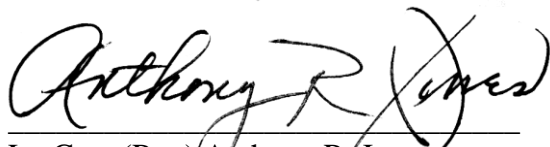
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General (Ret.) Kevin P. Byrnes



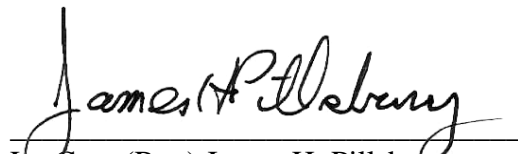
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Lt. Gen. (Retired) Kevin T. Campbell



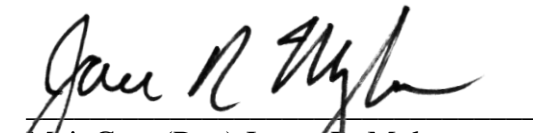
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Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Anthony R. Jones



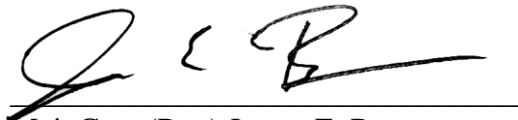
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Lt. Gen. (Ret.) James H. Pillsbury



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Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James R. Myles



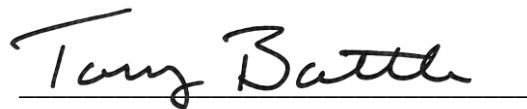
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Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James E. Rogers




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Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Al Sullivan



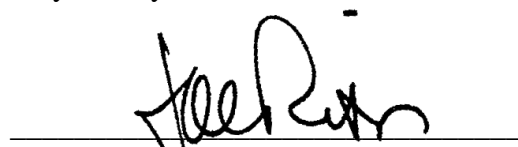
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Tommy Battle  
Mayor, City of Huntsville




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Troy Trulock  
Mayor, City of Madison



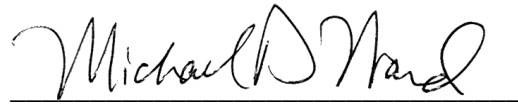
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Joe Ritch  
Chairman,  
Tennessee Valley BRAC Committee



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Lucia Cape  
Executive Director/Workforce,  
Tennessee Valley BRAC Committee



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Mike Ward  
Government Affairs, Chamber of Commerce  
of Huntsville/Madison County