

July 6, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building, Suite 600
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

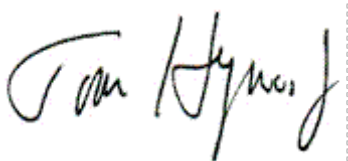
On behalf of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable – a member of the Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative (MassDTI) – please accept this letter as an expression of our support of the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations to expand Hanscom Air Force Base and preserve the Soldier Systems Center – Natick. MassDTI, co-chaired by Senator Edward Kennedy and Governor Mitt Romney, is a public-private partnership created to preserve and expand the missions of these two unique technical facilities. Because of the importance of both the Hanscom and Natick facilities to our membership, as well as the social and economic vitality they bring to our state, MBR is pleased to be part of this effort.

The membership of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable includes some of the largest and most economically important employers in the state, including the MITRE Corporation and Raytheon, both integral partners with Hanscom and Natick. For decades, Hanscom and Natick have made significant contributions to the technological advancement that drives our nation's warfighting capabilities. The command and control technologies developed at Hanscom and the soldier systems advancements from Natick help give the US military a technological advantage over every other military force in the world. Roundtable members work closely with the bases, serving the companies, the state of Massachusetts, and the nation well.

The successful track record of these bases can be attributed in large part to their proximity to the nation's top defense technology cluster that stretches from Southeastern Massachusetts into Southern New Hampshire. This region possesses the critical mass of skilled workforce, experienced institutional and academic partners and research and development base to enable these facilities to thrive now and into the future. As this BRAC process has proven, the Pentagon has a willing partner in Massachusetts to help create the future vision for these facilities.

By recommending the addition of more than 1100 new direct jobs to Hanscom and retaining the core technology mission at Natick, the Pentagon has made a tremendous commitment to Massachusetts and its technological capabilities. The Massachusetts Business Roundtable recognizes that commitment and will do its part to help these facilities continue their critical work and grow for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tom Hynes, Jr.", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Thomas J. Hynes, Jr., President

Alan G. Macdonald

Meredith & Grew
Chairman, Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Executive Director