



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

September 30, 2008

Colonel Keith A. Landry
Commander, Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-005

Dear Colonel Landry:

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of Middletown, Connecticut 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 the city.

Given your agency's recent legal opinion that the training center must be located in Middletown based on the BRAC report, it is vital that the concerns and recommendations of Middletown residents, public officials, and environmental organizations be taken into account throughout an open and transparent citing and construction process. Based on my continued conversations and written communications from Middletown constituents along with the testimony at the September 17, 2008 public hearing, it is overwhelmingly clear that city residents are rightly united in their opposition to the Boardman Lane site for this facility due to environmental, transportation, and smart growth concerns. It is also my understanding that approval of the Boardman Lane site would also trigger a lengthy and costly Environmental Impact Study (EIS) process that could potentially delay the construction of the facility.

If the training center can only be located in Middletown, there is strong public consensus that it should be located at Cucia Park following the Citizen's Advisory Panel's recommendation. This underused, city-owned park - adjacent to the industrial park on Smith Street - has access to interstate 91; does not abut a residential area; has readily-available water, sewage and utility resources; and conforms to our state's smart growth policies. According to the citizens' advisory panel report, Cucia Park also exceeds the Army's minimum area requirements, is zoned as industrial property, does not incur a loss of tax revenue to the city and may in fact generate revenue, and has the potential for broad community support.

September 30, 2008

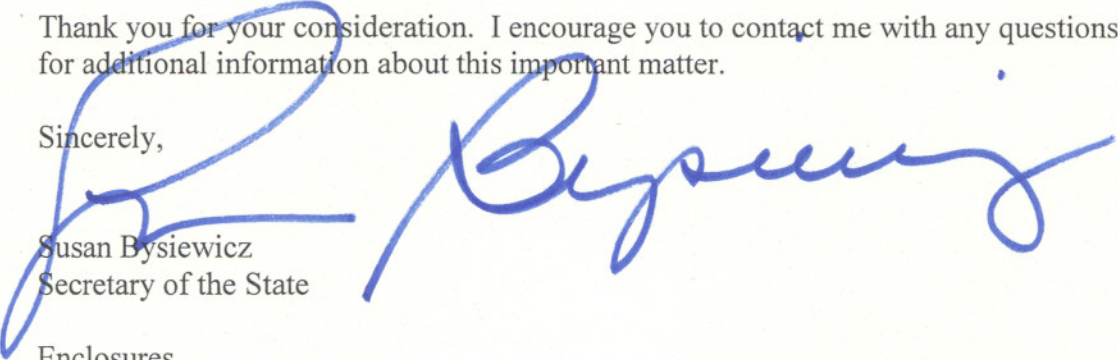
Letter to Colonel Keith A. Landry
Middletown BRAC Army Training Center

Given the consensus around the Cucia Park site and the strong opposition to the Boardman Lane site, I urge the U.S. Army Corp to carefully consider the community's environmental, transportation and development concerns when rendering a final determination on the citing of this important facility.

Please include this letter and all previous correspondence from me to your agency as part of the final report being prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on this issue. In addition, I am including copies of correspondence sent to Governor M. Jodi Rell and U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates for inclusion in the report as well.

Thank you for your consideration. I encourage you to contact me with any questions or for additional information about this important matter.

Sincerely,


Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State

Enclosures

CC: Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro
Mayor Sebastian Giuliano
Senator Paul Doyle
Representative Raymond Kalinowski
Mr. Stephen DeVoto