



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

September 10, 2008

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

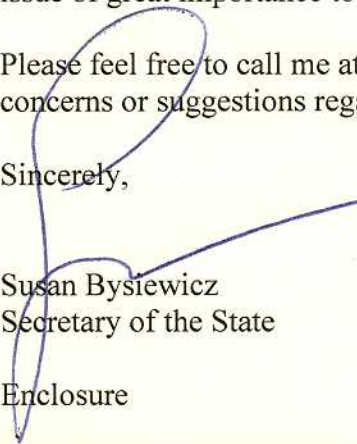

Dear Mr. Devoto:

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

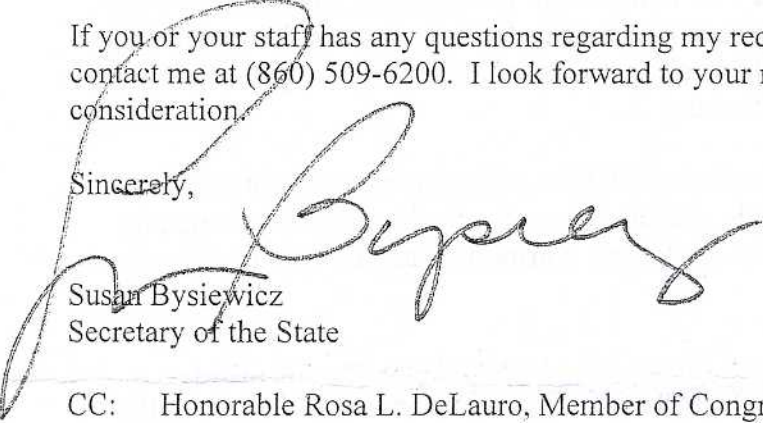
"Close the US Army Reserve Center, Middletown, CT, the Organizational Maintenance Shop, Middletown, CT; the SGT Libby US Army Reserve Center, New Haven, CT; the Organizational Maintenance Shop, New Haven, CT; the Army Reserve Area Maintenance Support Activity #69, Milford, CT and relocate units to a 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



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

September 9, 2008

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell
Governor, State of Connecticut
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106


Dear Governor Rell:

On behalf of the City of Middletown, the Westfield Residents Association, and numerous constituents, I am writing to you again regarding the potential siting of the U.S. Army training center in Middletown, Connecticut.

As you know, Congresswoman DeLauro and I wrote to you on July 28, 2008 urging you and the National Guard to apply principles of responsible growth when determining an appropriate site for the center in coordination with federal officials. Furthermore, we asked that you direct the state Office of Responsible Growth and the state Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development to conduct a comprehensive review of the proposed Army facility project. The review would potentially include an assessment of Brownfield sites in the Middletown region and the opportunity for the residents of Middletown to exercise home rule and local autonomy as full stakeholders in the selection of the facility's site.

While awaiting your formal response, serious concerns continue to be raised by state and local elected officials, the Westfield Residents Association, and other Middletown residents on a number of issues. For your review, I have enclosed copies of recent correspondence from the Association and several other constituents pointing to those concerns.

Specifically, the Association and local residents indicate that the U.S. Army continues to target the Boardman Lane property for the facility despite continued opposition by the city. This site also continues to be assessed for suitability despite your recent decision to remove the 250th Engineering Unit from the BRAC consolidation plan.

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September 9, 2008

Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor, State of Connecticut

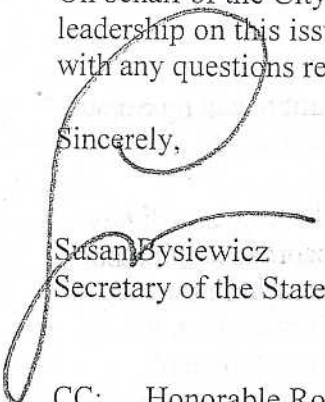
In addition, community stakeholders are disappointed that the selection process continues to lack transparency and public involvement despite the federal government's pledge to maintain an open dialogue.

Furthermore, it is unclear as to whether the U.S. Army and the State of Connecticut plan to utilize responsible growth principles when siting this important facility in the region.

As the Association and others are anxious for answers to their questions and concerns, I would appreciate your assistance in forwarding a response to Congresswoman DeLauro and my joint letter of July 28, 2008 to you at your earliest convenience.

On behalf of the City of Middletown and its residents, thank you again for your leadership on this issue. I look forward to your reply, and encourage you to contact me with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,


Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State

CC: Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Member of Congress
Honorable Sebastian Giuliano, Mayor, City of Middletown
Honorable Paul R. Doyle, State Senator, 9th Senatorial District
Honorable Ray Kalinowski, State Representative, 100th Assembly District