

**HORSHAM TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY
FOR NASJRB (NAVAL AIR STATION JOINT RESERVE BASE)**

Friday, April 13, 2007

Mr. Philip W. Grone
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installation and Environment
3400 Defense Pentagon
Room 3C553
Washington, DC 20301-3400

Re: NAS-JRB Willow Grove

Dear Secretary Grone,

As a result of a call from the local news radio station this morning, the Horsham Township Authority for NAS JRB (HLRA) became aware of the letters sent by Secretary Wynne to Senators Specter and Casey and Governor Rendell.

We respectfully request a meeting with you prior to your decision on the Air Force's request. It would appear from Secretary Wynne's letters that this request is merely an attempt to circumvent the BRAC process. The letter reads in part "Because the Air Force lacks a long-term requirement for the additional property, the lease to Pennsylvania would be short term, after which the Air Force would transfer title as soon as practicable to the Commonwealth." We do not believe that this action is the spirit or intent of BRAC law. Also, it is our understanding that the time period for a Federal to Federal transfer request has long since expired. The Air Force had previously requested only 17 acres of the facility to satisfy its' mission requirements.

The HLRA has faith in the BRAC process as described by OSD at the conference in Atlanta last year. The BRAC statute states that the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) is responsible for preparing the redevelopment plan and sets up a process for the community to speak with one voice through a LRA. In the case of NAS JRB Willow Grove, the HLRA is that one voice. Our HLRA meetings have been open to the public and State representatives have been invited and sometimes attend. We have been patiently awaiting the surplus determination so that the inclusive and comprehensive planning process contemplated by the BRAC law can move forward. It appears that the Air Force has injected itself into the redevelopment planning process. Since, there is apparently no dispute at this point that DOD has no need for the property, it would seem that an official surplus determination is appropriate.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to our meeting.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. McGee
Executive Director

Cc: Secretary Penn
Secretary Army