



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor

July 11, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

**Subject: BRAC 133 - Mark Center Transportation Crisis**

Dear Secretary Panetta:

Please accept my sincere congratulations on your nomination and unanimous confirmation by the Senate as Secretary of Defense. As you are aware, the Commonwealth of Virginia is home to numerous Department of Defense (DoD) facilities and military installations. We have a long and tradition-rich history of partnering with DoD to accommodate and promote DoD in Virginia. We look forward to working with you on issues of mutual interest.

In May 2011, I wrote to then Secretary Gates regarding the United States Department of Defense Inspector General's report dated April 20, 2011 entitled "Assessment of BRAC 133 Final Environmental Assessment of July 2008 and Transportation Management Plan of July 2010." The report confirmed many of the issues previously identified by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) during the BRAC 133 Environmental Assessment (EA) process in 2007 and 2008.

As the report indicated, numerous traffic studies have determined that the BRAC-133 relocation of 6,400 employees to Mark Center will cause severe congestion on I-95/I-395 in Northern Virginia and local roadways in the City of Alexandria. In order to mitigate the transportation impacts of BRAC-133, I included funding (\$80 million) for a HOV/Transit ramp on I-395 at Seminary Road in the recently approved state transportation funding package. In addition, DoD is planning to spend \$20 million for short term improvements. However, even with an extremely expedited schedule, the anticipated improvement will not be completed until 2014.

With the Mark Center complex scheduled for completion later this year, I am once again requesting DoD to phase-in the employee relocation to the Mark Center until the planned DoD short term road improvements and the HOV/Transit ramp are operational. We believe this is the only viable option currently available to avoid the

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massive transportation problems that are anticipated until the planned road improvements are completed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Either Secretary of Transportation Sean T. Connaughton or I are available should you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. McDonnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "McDonnell" clearly legible.

Robert F. McDonnell

RFM/sc

cc: Virginia Congressional Delegation  
The Honorable John McHugh, Secretary of the Army  
The Honorable Sean T. Connaughton, Virginia Secretary of Transportation  
The Honorable Terri Suit, Virginia Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security  
The Honorable William D. Euille, Mayor, City of Alexandria  
The Honorable Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors