

TENNESSEE VALLEY BRAC

28 February 2014

To the Alabama Legislature:

The Tennessee Valley Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Committee is a coalition of nine communities in North Alabama and four in Tennessee. It is the responsibility of this Committee to promote the interests of Redstone Arsenal, particularly as related to BRAC decisions. As federal fiscal constraints increase, a BRAC or BRAC-like realignments become more imminent.

Redstone Arsenal is in a position to gain additional functions based on the cost of doing business, our workforce, current missions, and available space. More than 37,500 people currently work on the installation, commuting from 15 counties across the Tennessee Valley and representing a combined salary of approximately \$3.2 billion per year, an average salary of \$87,000. The Arsenal is responsible for more than 101,000 jobs when counting those outside the gates. The overall economic impact of Redstone is \$11.5 billion, which is the equivalent of 6 percent of Alabama's GDP.

However, there are factors that could halt and even reverse the growth of Redstone. In October 2013, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno called for a review of all public schools surrounding Army bases. Gen. Odierno said governors and lawmakers often ask him how they can help the Army. His response: "If they want to keep the military in their communities, they'd better start paying attention to the schools that are outside and inside our installations. Because as we evaluate and as we make decisions on future force structure, that will be one of the criteria."

The Department of Defense Education Activity and the Military Child Education Coalition have both endorsed the Common Core State Standards because of the consistency and the rigor they provide to students who move from state to state. Tennessee Valley BRAC has repeatedly voiced its support for the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, based on but independent of the Common Core State Standards.

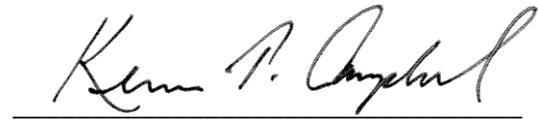
In response to SB380 and other attempts to repeal, delay, defund or otherwise disrupt the full implementation of the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards and the authority of the State Board of Education, we are once again expressing our full support for the standards and raising an alert that the military presence in Alabama – including its government civilians and contractors – could be severely impacted if the standards are not fully implemented and maintained.

We urge the Legislature to refrain from passing any legislation that would interfere with the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education.

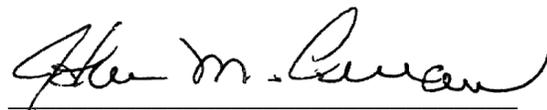
Sincerely,



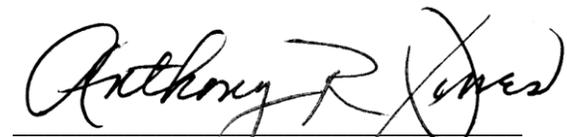
General (Ret.) Kevin P. Byrnes



Lt. Gen. (Retired) Kevin T. Campbell



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John M. Curran



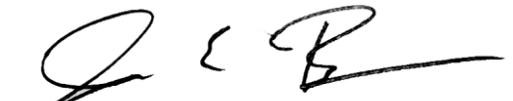
Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Anthony R. Jones



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) James H. Pillsbury



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James R. Myles



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James E. Rogers



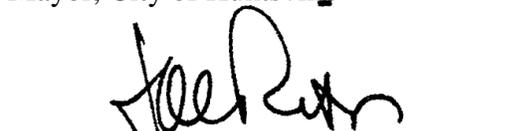
Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Al Sullivan



Tommy Battle
Mayor, City of Huntsville



Troy Trulock
Mayor, City of Madison,



Joe Ritch
Chairman,
Tennessee Valley BRAC Committee



Mike Ward
Government Affairs, Chamber of Commerce
of Huntsville/Madison County