



## NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**SENATOR MARC BASNIGHT**  
**SENATE DISTRICT 1**  
**PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

**REPRESENTATIVE BILL OWENS**  
**HOUSE DISTRICT 1**

April 12, 2010

Admiral John C. Harvey, Jr.  
Commander, US Fleet Forces Command  
Fleet Public Affairs (N02P)  
1562 Mitscher Ave., Suite 250  
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487

Dear Admiral Harvey:

For almost a decade, small, rural communities in northeastern North Carolina have been in an epic battle with the United States Navy over the destruction and elimination of their way of life. These are not wealthy with the monetary riches that the area in which you live is accustomed to, but they are rich in family, heritage and tradition – all foundations of our great nation and our United States Navy.

Over this past decade, the impassioned pleas of these rural residents have fallen on deaf ears in the offices of this country's Navy. Continuously, the Navy has refused to respect the wishes of our state's residents and has instead continued to steam forward to a goal that is neither needed wanted or needed: the construction of an outlying landing field in northeastern North Carolina.

Both of us have supplied several reasonable alternatives to this abhorrent idea of an OLF in our area. Countless times we have written with suggestions ranging from an off-shore platform to a parallel runway at Cherry Point Air Station. Again, these ideas have fallen on deaf ears.

Now we received word that you visited our great state to discuss this awful idea of an OLF in northeastern North Carolina in a closed meeting with local residents. We must say, it is very rare for a four-star admiral to visit our great state, and we, as well as the local governments, wish we had a little notice. Instead, it seems as though Virginia business groups were invited, but that locally elected officials were not. In our humble opinion, that does not go very far in creating feelings of trust.

We both welcome you to share with the Hampton Roads business community that northeastern North Carolina does not want and will not accept an outlying landing field in our communities. We thought that message was made clear last year when the North Carolina General Assembly unanimously passed legislation not ceding jurisdiction to an OLF in our area.

North Carolina is the proudest military state in our great nation. Our citizens have proudly served since before the formation of our country and have given tens of thousands in the protection of it. We are not against the Navy, but what is right is right and what is wrong is wrong – and Admiral, an OLF in northeastern North Carolina is WRONG.

Please do not let this plea fall on deaf ears and do whatever it takes to remove both sites in northeastern North Carolina from the OLF study.

Sincerely,



Marc Basnight



Bill Owens