



**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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

**REPRESENTATIVE BILL OWENS  
HOUSE DISTRICT 1**

April 22, 2008

Rear Admiral David O. Anderson  
Vice Commander,  
U.S. Fleet Forces Command  
1562 Mitscher Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487

Dear Admiral Anderson:

We have previously expressed our very strong opposition to the Navy's plans to build an Outlying Landing Field ("OLF") in northeastern North Carolina. Locating an OLF in a rural, economically distressed county would mean a drastic reduction in economic benefits and that any future for prosperity is destroyed for generations to come.

Let us be clear: we are opposed to the selection of either Camden or Gates County as the OLF site. The unanimous opposition of the County Commissioners and County Managers of both counties, along with the adamant opposition we have both heard directly from our constituents, spells trouble for the Navy's plans and ensures a long fight.

For more than six years, the Navy pursued its plan to build an OLF in an area that was clearly unsuitable while ignoring local opposition. Despite the victory in eliminating the Washington/Beaufort site from consideration, we are now faced with another protracted and eerily similar scenario.

The 52 jobs the OLF would create in North Carolina wouldn't begin to compensate for the jet noise and lowered property values the project would bring. Any potential for growth could be stymied by the threat of an OLF now and wiped out altogether if one of these counties is selected. Not only would an OLF fail to improve the local economy in the short-term, there would be little future economic development of the land and significantly lessened future tax revenues.

It does not have to be this way. Today, we respectfully ask the Navy to place an OLF in an area that would benefit economically and where popular support exists. Virginia, home to Naval Air Station Oceana (which the OLF would serve), would receive the economic benefits, while northeastern North Carolina would not. If Virginia will benefit from an OLF, give it to them.

Furthermore, we do not believe that the Navy has fully considered a fixed offshore training platform for the OLF. Make no mistake, we are not advocating for an aircraft carrier, but for a stationary, offshore platform. The Office of Naval Research has extensively studied the Mobile Offshore Base program and has found that this is a feasible technology. By constructing a facility in the water, we can avoid safety hazards associated with aircraft crashing into the land, a school, a home or other structure. This option will put the OLF out of reach of those opposing a land-based one. We respectfully ask that this option be discussed publicly, fully considered, and we request a written response. We also request a written explanation as to why the Navy has only considered land-based OLF sites thus far.

I think everyone can agree that North Carolina is one of the most military-friendly states in the whole country. It is our hope that even after all this time, we can work toward a solution that allows the Navy to meet its training needs and continues the proud tradition of cooperation between the military and our State.

Sincerely,



Marc Basnight

(signed)

Bill Owens

CC: Governor Michael F. Easley  
Senator Elizabeth Dole  
Senator Richard Burr