

Enrolled

House Joint Memorial 2

Sponsored by Representative NELSON; Representatives ACKERMAN, ANDERSON, AVAKIAN, BARKER, BARNHART, BERGER, BEYER, BOONE, BOQUIST, BROWN, BRUUN, BUCKLEY, BURLEY, BUTLER, CAMERON, DALLUM, DALTO, DINGFELDER, ESQUIVEL, FARR, FLORES, GALIZIO, GARRARD, GILMAN, GREENLICK, HANNA, HANSEN, HASS, HOLVEY, HUNT, JENSON, KITTS, KOMP, KRIEGER, KROPF, KRUMMEL, LIM, MACPHERSON, MARCH, MERKLEY, MINNIS, MORGAN, NOLAN, OLSON, RICHARDSON, RILEY, ROBLAN, ROSENBAUM, SCHAUFLEER, SCOTT, SHIELDS, G SMITH, P SMITH, SUMNER, THATCHER, TOMEI, WHISNANT, WIRTH, WITT, Senators ATKINSON, BATES, BEYER, BROWN, BURDICK, CARTER, COURTNEY, DECKERT, DEVLIN, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GORDLY, JOHNSON, KRUSE, METSGER, MONNES ANDERSON, MORRISSETTE, MORSE, NELSON, PROZANSKI, RINGO, SCHRADER, SHIELDS, B STARR, C STARR, VERGER, WALKER, WESTLUND, WHITSETT, WINTERS

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the Pacific Northwest is a vital economic region of the United States and is the gateway to the Pacific Rim; and

Whereas the Pacific Northwest's rivers, dams and other power facilities are an integral part of the nation's energy infrastructure; and

Whereas the Pacific Northwest is the home of significant investments in plant and personnel for major international corporations such as Microsoft, Boeing and Intel; and

Whereas the Pacific Northwest deserves the same level of protection from enemies, including terrorist groups and rogue nation states, that is enjoyed by any other region of the United States; and

Whereas the Oregon National Guard has defended the airspace over the entire Pacific Northwest with its 142nd Fighter Wing for more than half a century; and

Whereas the physical protection of the entire United States of America is the central mission of the Department of Defense; and

Whereas the purpose of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission is to ensure that our national military infrastructure is optimally arranged to support the defense of the entire nation; and

Whereas the Department of Defense has made a grave error in recommending to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission that the 142nd Fighter Wing's F-15 jet fighter coverage for Pacific Northwest airspace be reduced from 15 aircraft on alert to just two; and

Whereas the department has made this recommendation even while recommending that the number of aircraft on alert in other regions of the United States be increased; and

Whereas such a significant reduction in the number of aircraft on alert to protect the airspace over the Pacific Northwest will directly and immediately increase the vulnerability of this region to attack from enemies of the United States; and

Whereas the Department of Defense has also recommended relocating certain resources of the 939th Air Refueling Wing to other regions of the country, even though the department has expended \$30 million in the past three years to upgrade the Portland Air Base for the 939th Air Refueling Wing, thereby creating a world-class air tanker base; and

Whereas the 939th Air Refueling Wing plays a vital role in the support of the air defense mission of the Pacific Northwest; and

Whereas our nation has relied on citizen soldiers since its founding; and

Whereas citizens of Oregon and Washington have given years of their lives as citizen soldiers, serving this nation at a tremendous cost savings to the people of the United States; and

Whereas the National Guard and Reserve have proved their vital importance to our nation's security; and

Whereas Oregon ranks 48th among all states in expenditures by the Department of Defense; and

Whereas the face of the Department of Defense in Oregon is the National Guard and Reserve; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission is respectfully urged to carefully examine the basis for the Department of Defense's recommendation, to reject that recommendation as inconsistent with the department's central mission to protect the entire United States, and to recommend to the President of the United States and to Congress that the 142nd Fighter Wing be maintained at its present level as a fully manned and equipped fighter wing to defend the Pacific Northwest.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by House April 21, 2005

Readopted by House June 15, 2005

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate June 15, 2005

President of Senate