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Dear Friend:

Our community is facing great opportunities and challenges in the coming months.

As you may know, the Army is in the midst of relocating over 20,000 civilian and military personnel to Fort Belvoir as part of the base realignment and closure (BRAC) process. That's a workforce the size of the Pentagon's.

Many residents in the Fort Belvoir proximity are understandably anxious the Army's decisions will have a significant, lasting impact on their neighborhoods and quality of life. As your representative in Congress, I want to keep you informed of my efforts to ensure the Army takes our concerns to heart as it carries out its plans.

BRAC threatens to overwhelm our already choked roadways. In order to prevent or at least ameliorate this, I have two core objectives:

- 1) Make sure there is adequate transportation infrastructure in place before personnel arrive;
- 2) Make sure the Army adequately disperses incoming units across the fort. ___

With respect to the first objective, in April I helped pass a provision in the Department of Defense authorization bill that requires the Army to certify the necessary transportation infrastructure is, in fact, substantially complete before personnel can begin to relocate to Fort Belvoir. The bill is currently in the Senate and I am optimistic the provision will remain in the final bill. However, because of other considerations pertaining to the war in Iraq, there is a possibility no bill will emerge.

I have also continued to press the Army and the Commonwealth of Virginia to reach an agreement regarding the construction of

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the final leg of the Fairfax County Parkway. This segment would run across the Engineering Proving Ground (EPG) and connect the portion of the parkway east of I-95 with the remainder of the freeway.

Completion of this project is vital, particularly if EPG is to be used for BRAC purposes. It is a much needed transportation project that should have been completed long ago. Squabbling over environmental cleanup responsibilities between the state and the Army, however, has left it in limbo for over a decade. Recently, with the help of Senator John Warner, Congressman Jim Moran, Delegate David Albo, and State Senator Jay O'Brien, the Army announced it would oversee the project and assume responsibility for environmental issues, thereby paving the way for the project to finally move forward.

The second objective is in response to the Army's original plan to put 18,000 of the estimated 23,000 new arrivals onto the Engineering Proving Ground (EPG), a largely unused section of the fort located west of I-95. Such a plan is unworkable, especially since there is currently little access to EPG. In order to find an alternate solution, I have been working to give the Army access to the General Services Administration (GSA) warehouse facility in Springfield. It makes sense: it is federal property; it is directly adjacent to existing Metro and VRE stations; and it is capable of accommodating thousands of workers otherwise destined for EPG. That's why I included another provision, also in the Department of Defense authorization bill, requiring the Army and GSA to reach an agreement to transfer the warehouse property to the Army. I am happy to announce negotiations to either use the GSA property or another site away from the current fort are currently in progress; I am confident we will be successful even if the final bill fails to pass.

In other good news, the Army's final relocation plan, issued in August, cut the number of troops destined for EPG in half - from 18,000 to 8,500. It also reduced the total number of troops relocating to Belvoir by 3,000.

These are positive steps, but it is going to be a long, hard struggle to make BRAC at Fort Belvoir a success. As this process continues, I will do my best to keep you informed; I hope you will contact me with any comments or concerns you may have.

I have also received numerous inquiries about expediting construction of a South County middle school. Several years ago I arranged a transfer of land to Fairfax County from the old Lorton Prison site. This transfer, which was free to the county, included land for a middle school and elementary school; it also included the property on which South County High School now sits. The high school was completed ahead of schedule because of a public-private partnership that was created with the help of numerous state and local officials.

Our current hope is to expedite construction of the middle school by selling land currently owned by the county or federal government in the Lorton area and earmarking the proceeds for the middle school. I am working to identify and possibly rezone properties in the area so that the needed revenue can be gained; rezoning certain properties would require both state and local approvals. I will keep you abreast of our progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Davis

P.S. The BRAC realignment at Ft. Belvoir offers great opportunities and challenges. I am proud to be able to help our community meet these challenges and look forward to hearing from you in the future on how I can ~~better serve Northern Virginia.~~