



January 26, 2010

Dear Honorable Senators and Delegates:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Virginia Beach Vision, Inc. I ask that you **oppose** passage to two bills, **HB 887** and **SB 6**, that would further hinder efforts by the Department of Defense to locate an outlying landing field (OLF) in the Commonwealth.

SB 6: As introduced SB 6 would require the US Government to receive prior approval of the General Assembly before it could purchase land for an OLF in any location where no existing military base where aircraft squadrons are stationed exists. Passage of this legislation will slow the location process of an OLF and likely block its location in Virginia. The Navy has indicated that they are only able to meet 60% of their the post 9/11 field carrier landing practice needs with the existing OLF capacity. Location of an additional OLF is therefore critical to our national defense and will have a significant impact on whether future fighter aircraft will be stationed in Virginia or take those high paying jobs and related support business elsewhere. Further, from a policy standpoint, it makes little sense for legislators from distant parts of the Commonwealth to decide what is ultimately a national security and local land use issue.

HB 877: This legislation would do away with the ability to establish programs to purchase land or development rights in a corridor of land beneath the flight path from a master jet base and an auxiliary landing field. Virginia Beach, in cooperation with the Navy, has such a land purchase program in place between NAS Oceana and Fentress OLF which, perhaps as an unintended consequence, would be in jeopardy.

It is critical to the future of NAS Oceana that an additional OLF be located in close proximity. Further, the Commonwealth must be seen as a cooperative and willing partner with the military in order for us to compete with states such as Florida where expanded military presence and investment is being courted.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Barrett

President
Virginia Beach Vision

Virginia Beach Vision was founded in 1993 by a handful of prominent business and civic leaders who saw the need for a non-partisan, issue-oriented group to provide private sector leadership that would create a vision and advance initiatives necessary to the City of Virginia Beach and the Hampton Roads region's future development, prosperity and quality of life. Today, Virginia Beach Vision's Board of Directors is comprised of 113 business and community leaders.