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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW



J. Randy Forbes
United States Congress
4th District, Virginia

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April 9, 2010

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor McDonnell,

In the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, the Department of Defense has stated their clear intent to homeport a nuclear aircraft carrier in Mayport, Florida, requiring the move of the carrier from Naval Station, Norfolk. Without question, this action would present Virginians with a significant national security and economic loss while not providing any clear, demonstrable strategic gain for the nation.

The Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations have presented to Congress the metrological and homeland security risks they believe will be mitigated with the move of a single aircraft carrier. Over the course of the last several months I have carefully reviewed these risks and have concluded that each of those risks *will not* be mitigated by the carrier move, and would in my view, *increase* both the metrological and homeland security risks for a single carrier homeported in Florida. The Navy has no plans to protect what would be the remaining four nuclear aircraft carriers, the critical nuclear infrastructure, nor the 1.7 million people in the Hampton Roads region against the very risks that the Navy argues necessitates the move of a carrier.

In this critical time, it is essential that Virginians of all stripes coalesce to fight what amounts to a politically motivated decision flimsily supported by the Navy's lack of sound analysis. Virginians are in urgent need of your leadership to unite government, business, and community leaders to work together to ensure that the right decision is made for our nation.

I urge you to establish a Commission or coalition to actively work on a state-wide basis as Florida seems to be doing, to offset the enormous lobbying effort to move a carrier from Norfolk. I specifically request that you consider the former Secretary of the Navy and Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, John W. Warner, and former Virginia Governor and Senator Charles S.

Robb to co-chair the Commission. In addition, I offer any assistance you may need as you lead Virginia in this critical fight that will undoubtedly impact the entire Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Randy Forbes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress