



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0526**

February 3, 2014

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MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell  
Director  
White House Office of Management and Budget  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20504-0002

Dear Director Burwell:

As you develop the FY 2015 budget request, I urge you to omit any request to Congress to authorize an additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

As we draw down forces from our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, I understand the need to identify excess infrastructure and cost-savings opportunities within the Department of Defense. However, I believe facilities outside the United States and its territories should be considered for closure first. Nearly 70 years after the end of World War II, we have bases in Europe, many of which are outdated and do not reflect our current, and future, defense needs.

I have the honor of representing the servicemembers and hardworking civilians of Naval Base Ventura County. I am proud of the service and sacrifices they make every day, and believe the Department of Defense should ensure they are protected during these difficult economic times. Naval Base Ventura County has a profound impact on the families in my community. We owe it to them to consider cost savings options abroad before considering BRAC back home.

Furthermore, the President and Department of Defense's announced plan to shift focus to the Asia-Pacific region increases the strategic importance of Naval Base Ventura County to our national security posture in the coming decades.

Again, I urge you to omit any request to Congress to authorize an additional BRAC in the FY 2015 Budget request, and appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress

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