



May 1st, 2009

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

We are writing to strongly encourage you to resist calls for further cuts to education spending as you continue to make necessary budget decisions. From the perspective of the most recent round of the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process in 2005, further cuts in education endanger the \$10B economic engine we seek to preserve and grow; namely, our military installations.

Quality of education for family members continues to be a significant measure in the Pentagon's calculus of the value of a military installation. For example, during the last BRAC round the Sierra Vista community put as much effort into preventing the Pentagon BRAC commission from misrepresenting Fort Huachuca with the gross state per-capita education spending statistic as it did in educating them about the true nature of water in Southeastern Arizona. There's no room for erosion (in either).

The Pentagon will make decisions to restructure basing of forces as US involvement in the conflict in the Middle East winds down, as it fields new aircraft and major defense budget changes are announced. Education is also a major factor in attracting the talent needed by the many high-tech contracting firms that support Arizona's military installations. Rest assured that education will be one of the key factors in determining the continued viability of Arizona's military installations. Holding the line on education spending is an investment in Arizona's and America's future

The challenges of the current budgetary process are daunting, but they should not cause us to make decisions that will have serious and unintended consequences. We strongly urge you to resist attempts to further cut funding for education in Arizona communities.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Glen Kerslake in black ink.

Glen Kerslake
President,
DM- 50

Handwritten signature of Lawrence J. Portouw in black ink.

Lawrence J. Portouw
President,
Fort Huachuca 50

Handwritten signature of Steve Yamamori in black ink.

Steve Yamamori
Executive Director/CEO,
Fighter Country
Partnership

DM-50
321 N. El Camino Del Norte
Tucson, AZ 85716

Fort Huachuca 50
P.O. Box 2898,
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85636-2898

Fighter Country Partnership
500 North Estrella Parkway
Suite B2, PMB479
Goodyear, AZ 85338