

Subase Coalition

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Statement By
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Before the
Connecticut General Assembly Commerce Committee
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H.B. No. 6423 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE-NEW LONDON

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee . . .

My name is William D. Moore. I am appearing before you today as a member of the Subase Coalition. The Subase Coalition is a public-private alliance that was created in 1993 and dedicated to maintaining and supporting the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London located in Groton Connecticut. The group has successfully overturned recommendations to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) three times, in 1993, 1995 and in 2005. I was privileged to serve as Chairman of the Subase Coalition in 1993 and 1995 and as a Team Leader in 2005.

I am appearing before you today to support **HB 6423 An Act Concerning Infrastructure Enhancement at the United States Naval Submarine Base – New London**. I strongly urge this Committee and the General Assembly to pass this legislation.

Simply put, enactment of this measure will make it easier for the State of Connecticut to provide grants to the U.S. Navy and/or the U.S. Department of Defense for infrastructure improvements to the Subase.

Why is this important?

During each of the previous rounds of BRAC, the analysis performed by the Department of Defense prior to the publication of the final list of bases slated for closure or realignment found that the Subase had an aging infrastructure. As a result, the Subase lost a significant amount of “points” during the quantitative analysis when compared against other more modern submarine bases. The Subase actually ranked at the bottom of the list of submarine bases due in part to the lost points on infrastructure.

While there are currently no additional rounds of BRAC activity scheduled, it is not unreasonable to assume that there will be another round scheduled at some point in the not too

distant future. If that period is 2014 or 2015, the preliminary reviews can begin in the next two to three years. If there are no substantive improvements to the infrastructure at the Subase between now and then, we will once again find ourselves at a significant disadvantage. Enactment of this legislation will make it easier for the state to support the mission of the Subase.

The Groton base has a \$3.3 billion economic impact on the State of Connecticut and is directly and indirectly responsible for 31,500 jobs across the state. Closure of the Subase will have a significant impact on the state and our nation's defense.

Connecticut has supported the Subase and its mission since 1868 when the state gave the Navy 112 acres of land along the Thames River to build a naval station. Enactment of this measure will demonstrate continued support and help to ensure a strong naval presence in Connecticut well into the future.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before you today. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.