

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2007

Congressman David Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H218 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

As you continue your work to complete a consolidated appropriations bill for FY 2008, we write to bring to your attention an issue of great importance to San Antonio, Texas. Funding for BRAC 2005 military construction is among the most important issues affecting the City of San Antonio.

As you are well aware, the BRAC effect on San Antonio will be one of the largest economic development initiatives the city has ever experienced. The contributions resulting from BRAC will further stimulate employment, investment, and prosperity in our city, and above all will result in a greater level of expert care for our soldiers returning from war.

Military bases in San Antonio are scheduled to receive a significant amount of FY 2008 BRAC construction funds. Delaying the appropriation and distribution of these funds could lead to increased project costs and the disruption of construction schedules. To prevent this prospect from happening and in order to best serve the needs of our military men and women, we respectfully reiterate our request that you work to ensure that the final negotiated version of the FY 2008 consolidated appropriations bill includes full funding for BRAC construction projects.

We are well aware that the President has threatened to veto appropriations bills that do not match his priorities and funding levels and that as a result Congress has been forced to compromise. However, there should be no compromise on funding levels for military construction projects mandated by BRAC 2005.

Respectfully,

Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress