

**WASHINGTON, DC** –“ Congressman Joe Courtney today received confirmation from Rep. Solomon Ortiz, chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness which has oversight over military installations, that there are no plans for base closure on the horizon.

[Courtney wrote to Ortiz on September 3](#)

, expressing concern with Defense Secretary Robert Gates’ comments regarding cuts to the defense budget.

“Chairman Ortiz’s letter confirms that Secretary Gates has no unilateral authority to close any installation with more than 300 civilian personnel,” said Courtney. “Contrary to misleading public comments in Connecticut, there is no legislative effort from the Congress or the Pentagon to authorize base closures. Such claims were refuted completely by today’s unambiguous clarification. Still, we will remain vigilant in our defense of the Sub Base – a paramount responsibility.”

[In his response to Courtney’s letter](#) , Ortiz said in part:

“I would oppose any future authorization of another round of base closures based on the current BRAC structure. Finally, I am not aware of any proposal to authorize another round of base closures. Absent a specific notice to Congress that is included as part of an annual defense authorization request, the Department does not have the unilateral authority to close any military installation that employs more than 300 civilian personnel [a threshold the Sub Base exceeds].”

Since 2007, Courtney has secured approximately \$85 million in new military construction projects at the base. This total includes: \$9.3 million for a Submarine Learning Center, \$11.9 million for a Waterfront Operations Center, \$11 million for a new indoor firing range, \$46 million to replace Pier 32 on the waterfront, and \$6.6 million for a new MK-49 Torpedo Magazine. Further, the pending 2011 Military Construction appropriations bill includes \$12.93 million for the relocation of the Submarine Group Headquarters building, moving the command closer to the waterfront operations it oversees.

In addition, Congressman Courtney has introduced H.R. 5755, a bill which would allow the Department of Defense to limit competition on state-funded military construction projects to only those firms located in the state. The State of Connecticut is funded several projects at the base that will improve its infrastructure and partner with the Navy to support the installation.

Congressman Courtney is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and serves on the Readiness Subcommittee. Any legislation proposing future base closings would first be reported to Ortiz and Courtney’s subcommittee, which has primary jurisdiction.