

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 4, 2008

The Honorable Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Geren:

We write to express our disappointment concerning the Army's handling of the closure of the Charles E. Kelly Support Facility (CEKSF) in Oakdale, Pennsylvania. We strongly urge you to take all necessary actions to ensure that all Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) operations and the Commissary and Post Exchange (PX) services are maintained through September 2011 or until the new facility is built in Moon Township, Pennsylvania.

In recent months, our offices have received continuous complaints about the elimination of services at CEKSF. Specifically, we have been informed that the Army has taken actions that have impaired the delivery of support services to eligible military patrons in the four state region. These actions have negatively affected military families in our home state of Pennsylvania, and in the neighboring states of West Virginia, Ohio, and Maryland.

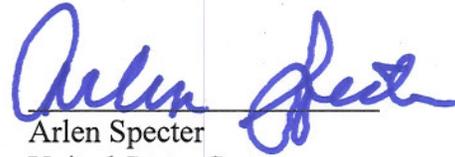
The need to sustain these services comes at a significant time for our military. The current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have stressed active military and have placed a substantial strain on our Guard and Reserve personnel. Units in this region have deployed multiple times, leaving family members and dependents reliant upon the services at CEKSF. In the coming months, Pennsylvania is expecting to deploy nearly 7,000 Army National Guard Units to support our nation's worldwide efforts to combat global terrorism. This undertaking represents the Commonwealth's largest deployment of Army National Guard Units since World War II. Many of the soldiers scheduled for deployment are based in the region and are supported by CEKSF. With this upcoming deployment, it is essential that the Army ensure that our military family members receive the proper level of service.

As you can appreciate, the elimination of services has caused confusion, frustration, and disappointment among the eligible military families. Simply stated, these soldiers deserve to have access to these services, and we are committed to ensuring that operations are maintained for all eligible constituents. We therefore respectfully request that you give your written assurances that there will be no lapse of any of the existing services, including the children and family support services, commissary and Post Exchange, until a new facility has been completed.

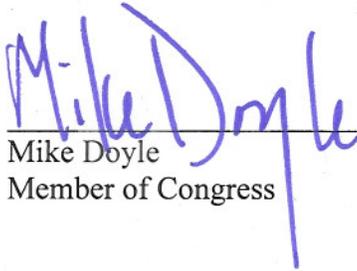
Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you.



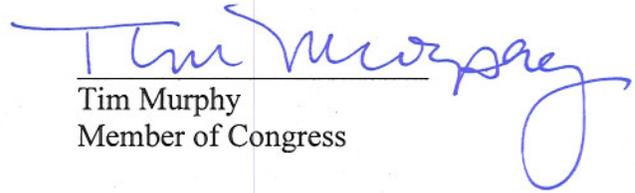
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Arlen Specter
United States Senator



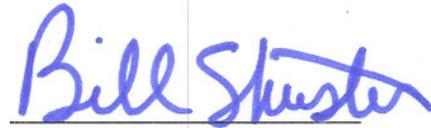
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Jason Altmire
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



Phil English
Member of Congress