

On Feb 24, 2015, at 9:23 AM, "Susie Gorski" <[sgorski@cer.org](mailto:sgorski@cer.org)> wrote:

I just wanted to take a moment this morning to call in and commend you for taking the initiative to create HJR 13 opposing the drawdown of our two Army brigades in Alaska – at JBER and Wainwright.

We are a community over 35,000 – with over 2000 active duty military here in CER.... About 21 percent of our residents are veterans... that's the highest in the state; and Alaska has the highest percent of veterans in the country. This is a great place for active duty and retired..... we offer many benefits to our military from tax relief to the permanent fund dividend....

The proposed draw down of just the 4/25 is equivalent to the loss of ½ of the population of Chugiak-Eagle River – about 15,000 gone at the drop of the hat...That does not even count Wainwright.

We know that each and every one of the 30 communities that are targeted to lose brigades are worried...they will all be impacted economically. So why us.... when looking at the competition, it is clear that the Army must also consider that we have the best geopolitical arguments for keeping both brigades here in Alaska

- Our training areas are second to none and
- Our strategic location is the very best from the standpoint of reaching critical hotspots in the world in the shortest amount of time.... whether it be the opening of the arctic sea ice, resource and energy development, or Russia's military buildup in the arctic, or activity in the Pacific.... we are the first responders able to deploy both brigades jointly

On behalf of our Chamber, thank you for being leaders on this issue.

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**“Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is a progress, working together is a success!”**