

**Committee on Armed Services**  
**FY14 National Defense Authorization Act**  
**Testimony of Congressman Henry A. Waxman**  
**Submitted for the record**  
**May 7, 2013**

Thank you, Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony as you consider how to approach the Fiscal Year 2014 defense authorization bill.

I would like to express strong opposition to the proposal in the President's Budget for FY 2014 to establish another Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) round in 2015.

As you know, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report last year showing that the 2005 BRAC was the "biggest, most complex, costliest BRAC round ever." Its implementation costs ballooned 86% over the Department of Defense's original estimates and will exceed by billions the anticipated long term savings.

One of my top priorities is to protect the mission of the LA Air Force Base. The significance of the LA Air Force Base is the Space and Missile Systems Center. No other military installation worldwide matches the LA Air Force Base's position as a leader in space systems design and development. The LA Air Force Base contributes to the development of the next generation of ballistic missiles, rockets and satellites. The advancements in technology that were born and developed in the South Bay have made our country safer. The base is the hub of the Southern California aerospace and defense industries, and it supports thousands of jobs in the private sector. Furthermore, as we seek to create jobs to support our economic recovery, the aerospace industry has been one of our nation's largest net exporters. So, the value of the base goes beyond the direct and indirect jobs statewide and annual payroll.

I do not believe that funding a BRAC process is the best use of our limited funds, especially when the 2005 BRAC has yet to earn savings eight years later. I urge you to avoid a new BRAC process and make sensible decisions for our national defense. I look forward to working with you as you move forward with the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.