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Congress of the United States
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March 17, 1976

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Dear xxxxxxx:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concern over the situation at Fort Devens.

I can say that I am more hopeful about the possibility of preventing the closing of the base than I was just a few weeks ago. It appears that the efforts of Fort Devens employees, opinions expressed by the Greater Boston community, and pressure from the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation have prompted the Ford Administration to reconsider the closing of the base. A thorough economic study has been promised following two meetings with the Secretary of the Army and conversations with the Secretary of Defense. I believe that the turnout at Fort Devens on March 6th to protest the rumored closing is a good indication of the willingness of the public and their representatives to battle such a decision.

During the past year, the Fifth Congressional District has been threatened with the loss of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories at Hanscom Air Force Base and with severe cutbacks at Lincoln Laboratories and the Mitre Corporation. After a good deal of work, especially by the people at Hanscom, we were able to convince the Air Force not to transfer Cambridge Research Laboratories and to minimize planned cutbacks at Lincoln and Mitre. I am hopeful that we will be as successful in our efforts on behalf of Fort Devens.

I greatly appreciate your efforts on behalf of continued operations at Fort Devens. We must continue to let the Administration and the Congress know that a decision to close this base would be most harmful to the Massachusetts economy and to the defense interests of New England. I intend to do everything I possibly can to see that Fort Devens remains open.

Sincerely,

PAUL E. TSONGAS
Member of Congress

PET/vff