



**INTERNATIONAL
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WORKERS®**

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EDWIN D. HILL
International President

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June 12, 2009

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the approximately 725,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write in support of the Defense Communities Assistance Act of 2009 (H.R. 2295), legislation designed to assist local communities with the often devastating economic impact of military base closures and realignments. An essential feature of H.R. 2295 is its permanent extension of no-cost economic development conveyance (EDC).

When military base closures are initiated by the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) Commission, an important part of the Department of Defense's (DODs) commitment is to help closed bases transition quickly to productive civilian reuse. An important tool in that process is the no-cost EDC. No-cost EDC permits DOD to transfer (i.e. convey) closed military property to a local economic development authority. In this time of economic turmoil, no-cost EDCs are a vital mechanism to unlock economic development and job creation while creating public benefits for local communities.

The Defense Communities Assistance Act is a job-creating economic development tool. I respectfully request your support for H.R. 2295.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin D. Hill
International President

EDH:lgd
Copy to: Madam Speaker Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Solomon Ortiz
The Honorable Sam Farr

