



, Inc.

TO: Camp Verde Planning and Zoning Committee & Camp Verde Town Council  
DATE: January 6, 2011  
RE: STARA Technologies – Dateland Proving Grounds Research Division

Dear Committee and Council Members;

The Beaver Creek Regional Council, serving the communities of Rimrock, Lake Montezuma, McGuireville and surrounding areas, wishes to voice its concerns on the Town of Camp Verde's proposed contract with STARA Technologies – Dateland Proving Grounds Research Division. By a majority vote of the Council at its January 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 meeting, BCRC in principal is opposed to the proposal. Abstaining Council member votes required additional information and assurances negating the concerns of our local citizenry.

Specifically, our citizens have voiced concern for the potential invasion of privacy, potential damage to our local economies, the visual impact of the balloons which would be visible from miles around, community safety, protection of our dark skies and the possible effects on local flights from our regional airport.

There may be far less populated regions in Arizona similar to the mountainous terrain in Afghanistan which could be better suited for this type of operation where the potential threat of invasion of privacy could be negated. Training operations in these areas may prove to be more beneficial statewide by observing illegal trafficking activities prevalent in those areas. In that regard, STARA Technologies experience working with the U.S. Border Patrol could prove to be a beneficial asset for us all.

As the closest neighbors to Camp Verde, which has continually contributed to the Camp Verde local economy and sales tax base, we urge you to carefully weigh the economic impact of creating 15 to 30 jobs for out-of-town workers versus the overall economic impact, trust and good faith placed in the Town from the Beaver Creek and Camp Verde citizens. We encourage the Town Council and its committees to first focus on economic development plans that target the type of business and industry our areas desire to attract which can stimulate our areas' economy for the long haul.

In support of the U.S. Forest Service and our many area recreational users, an object floating in the sky this large may detract from the peaceful and secluded recreational uses of the area. Here in Beaver Creek, we take pride in the sanctity that our open space area provides. We do not wish to jeopardize this or suffer the potential negative impact to our eco-tourism and recreation industry.

Effects of our local weather – high winds in March and microbursts during our monsoon season, also brings into question safety issues for both our communities. Although it is said that these tethered balloons could be brought down quickly, the accident risk probability of sudden weather changes experienced in our Valley may be huge and of great concern to our local citizens.

As identified in the Beaver Creek Community Plan – Vision 2020, the citizens of Beaver Creek have recognized the protection and promotion of dark sky ordinances as one of its' primary objectives. Additional lighting of the night sky visible from our community is objectionable.

Finally, in support of our organization member, the Rimrock Airport Association, we urge you to listen to the cautions and experience of area pilots and users on the potential hazards this project may pose. The Rimrock Airport is one of the earliest airports in the country and the first in Arizona, activated in 1947.

We do not wish to be labeled as “NIMBYs”, however, Camp Verde is our back yard. The citizens of Beaver Creek wish to continue to enjoy a peaceful and prosperous co-existence as good neighbors now and in the future with the Town of Camp Verde.

Sincerely,

Kala Pearson  
President  
Beaver Creek Regional Council, Inc.