



John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chair

Gary Herbert
Governor of Utah
Vice Chair

Dan Crippen
Executive Director

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Steven Palazzo
United States House of Representatives
331 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2404

Dear Representative Palazzo:

On behalf of the nation's governors, thank you for your efforts to preserve a strong National Guard in the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

As commanders-in-chief of the National Guard, governors care deeply about the Guard's ability to perform critical missions at home as well as alongside active duty forces overseas. Over the last several years, governors have engaged with the Department of Defense (DoD) through the Council of Governors to express concerns over proposals to remove Army National Guard (ARNG) force structure and combat aviation capabilities. While we recognize the fiscal challenges facing DoD, we also firmly believe that the ARNG's cost effectiveness can be better leveraged to maintain overall capability while reducing costs for the nation.

The National Commission on the Future of the Army (Commission) will review these issues as part of its independent assessment. We appreciate your support for providing Congress sufficient time to consider the Commission's recommendations before allowing the Army to implement long-term and irreversible changes to the ARNG.

Thank you again for your leadership and strong support of the National Guard.

Sincerely,

Governor Rick Snyder
Chair
Homeland Security and Public Safety Cmte.

Governor Terry McAuliffe
Vice Chair
Homeland Security and Public Safety Cmte.

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Co-chair
Council of Governors

Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Co-chair
Council of Governors