



Oklahoma



Connecticut

October 2, 2018

Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Wilson:

As co-chairs of the Council of Governors, we write to you concerning the recently released *Proposal for a Space Development Agency and Transition to a Department of the Space Force* (proposal), dated September 14, 2018.

We want to highlight the proposal's annex, which recommends statutory changes related to the transition of National Guard units into the Reserve Component. Specifically, the "orderly transition of any Army and Air National Guard units currently performing duty or assigned to an organization [be] transferred to the U.S. Space Force Space Force Reserve Component."

As commanders-in-chief of our respective National Guard, governors will always have critical concerns over any legislative proposal that would seek to move capabilities, manpower and resources away from the National Guard. Governors stressed these concerns in the two budget submissions: in 2013 when the Air Force tried to significantly cut Air National Guard force structure and in 2015 when the Army attempted to cut Army National Guard aviation capability. In several of our Council meetings, governors have reiterated our collective concern over the reductions in National Guard force structure, and the need to increase full time support to ensure the success of the guard's dual mission.

The Council of Governors worked diligently with the Department of Defense and federal partners in 2013 to establish the *State-Federal Consultative Process for Programming and Budgetary Proposals Affecting the National Guard* (consultative process). A key element of the consultative process is to improve and clarify procedures by which federal resource allocation or reallocation proposals affect the National Guard or military operations in support of domestic civil authorities. It calls on the Department to discuss and exchange information with the Council in advance of the Department formally requesting, submitting or implementing federal resource allocation or reallocation actions that affect the National Guard.

Should the Air Force look to put forward such a legislative proposal noted above in either the fiscal year 2020 or 2021 budget submission, we request that you work with the Council well in advance of submission to ensure that there are no detrimental impacts on National Guard force structure, personnel or capabilities. This maintains the spirit and purpose of the consultative process.

Additionally, we request that you work with our adjutants general and ensure they are routinely informed on additional developments as the Department works to establish a Space Force.

We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Governor Mary Fallin  
Co-Chair  
Council of Governors



Governor Dannel Malloy  
Co-Chair  
Council of Governors

Cc

President Donald J. Trump  
Secretary of Defense, James Mattis  
Deputy Secretary of Defense, Patrick Shanahan  
Secretary of the Army, Mark Esper  
Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Joseph Lengyel  
Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Mick Mulvaney  
House and Senate Armed Services Committees  
National Governors Association