



Jack Markell
Governor of Delaware
Chair

Mary Fallin
Governor of Oklahoma
Vice Chair

Dan Crippen
Executive Director

December 10, 2012

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Levin, Senator McCain, Chairman McKeon and Representative Smith:

Thank you for your support this year in sustaining the Air National Guard's (ANG) funding, manpower and aircraft at Fiscal Year 2012 levels while we have tried to work with the Department of Defense (DoD) to address our concerns and avoid future budget disputes. In the absence of an agreement on the Air Force's budget proposal for FY2013, and without an agreement between governors and DoD on a consultative process for future years, we request your continued support in conference for the freeze in ANG manpower and aircraft and for the Senate's proposed National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force.

As you know, through the Council of Governors (Council) we have worked diligently with the Air Force this year to try to rectify the surprising and disproportionate cuts facing the ANG as part of the Air Force's FY2013 budget request. While we recognize the Air Force's recent attempt to revise its earlier proposal, there has not been sufficient time for all interested parties to fully review the details, assess impact and discuss modifications. We look forward to continuing to work with the Air Force on a proposal that could be implemented for FY2014.

Through the Council, we have also tried to work with DoD to develop a consultative process for FY2015 and beyond that could ensure governors' priorities with respect to the National Guard are incorporated into the future budget submissions of the Air Force and the Army. Despite our efforts, we have yet to receive feedback from DoD on the draft consultative process that was developed jointly by state and federal representatives earlier this Fall. We hope to reconvene with DoD before the end of the calendar year to try to finalize an agreement.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Governor Jack Markell

Governor Mary Fallin

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Co-Chair
Council of Governors

Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Co-Chair
Council of Governors