



Washington



Iowa

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Ashton Carter
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318

Dear Secretary Carter:

Thank you for your efforts to review the U.S. Air Force's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2013 and its disproportionate impact on the Air National Guard (ANG). We recognize and appreciate the need to reduce costs while providing for a strong national defense and pledge to work with you to resolve our concerns and develop a more collaborative process for future year defense decisions.

As we expressed to the leadership of the U.S. Air Force, governors have significant concerns with the budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2013 due to its disproportionate impact on ANG manpower as well as fighter aircraft and airlift capabilities. Through our Adjutants General, we proposed a comprehensive alternative that would ensure a more appropriate and flexible approach to reductions in the active forces and the ANG and preserve the necessary personnel and aircraft needed by federal authorities to prosecute military actions overseas and by state and federal officials to protect lives and property in our states and territories.

We look forward to a dialog with you about ways to maintain the ANG's important national defense and domestic emergency response capabilities while also meeting the Defense Department's overall goals for the Fiscal Year 2013 budget of implementing the new military strategy and reducing costs. We have worked together to achieve what many considered an unattainable objective – comprehensive and sustainable agreement on how to achieve unity of effort in military support for civil authorities. We're equally committed to working with you to ensure a collaborative process for future budget and policy proposals affecting our nation's National Guard.

Given the urgency of this issue, please let us know the timing of your review and when we will have an opportunity to discuss your recommendations.

Again, thank you for your efforts to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christine O. Gregoire in blue ink.

Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Co-Chair
Council of Governors

Handwritten signature of Terry Branstad in blue ink.

Governor Terry Branstad
Co-Chair
Council of Governors