



Iowa



Washington

July 22, 2011

TO ALL GOVERNORS:

As Co-Chairs of the Council of Governors (Council), we are writing to provide an update on the Council's efforts to negotiate a model dual status commander Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and the legislative "package" that would authorize call-up of the Reserves to respond to a governor's request for disaster assistance and codify dual status command arrangements.

During the Council's July 17 meeting, the governors on the Council informed the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Homeland Security (DHS) of governors' unanimous support for the MOA and for efforts to move forward and allow every governor the opportunity to sign the MOA at his or her discretion. We also presented the edits to the legislation that we had previously shared with all governors and indicated that governors had agreed to move forward on the legislation only if our changes were included.

We are pleased to report that DoD and DHS representatives agreed to accept our edits to the legislative package and there was strong support for approving both documents during the Council meeting. Both documents are pending final approval by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. The Secretaries are expected to confirm the Council's agreement within days.

As soon as the Secretaries act, each governor will be afforded the opportunity to sign the MOA that has been agreed upon or attempt to negotiate additional changes with DoD. We will work with DoD to present the legislative package to Congress and ensure governors' edits are maintained throughout the legislative process. We plan to support inclusion of the amendments in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 provided Congress adopts the text of our legislative package without changes.

In addition to discussing the MOA and the legislation, the governors on the Council gained the commitment of DoD and DHS to continue the work of the Council to address other issues, including National Guard equipment modernization, force structure changes and enhanced federal funding for National Guard capital facilities. In addition, there will likely be further opportunities for us to provide leadership in the areas of medical credentialing and continued support for our soldiers, veterans and their families.

Thank you for your support of these efforts. We will continue to provide updates on the Council's activities and welcome your participation as we work to finalize the MOA and the legislative package.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Terry E. Branstad in blue ink.

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Co-Chair
Council of Governors

Handwritten signature of Christine O. Gregoire in blue ink.

Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Co-Chair
Council of Governors