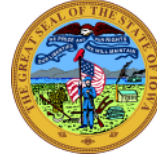




Washington



Iowa

May 26, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20318

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. John Brennan  
Assistant to the President for Homeland  
Security and Counterterrorism  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Paul Stockton  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland  
Defense and Americas' Security Affairs  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20318

Dear Secretary Gates, Secretary Napolitano, Mr. Brennan and Assistant Secretary Stockton:

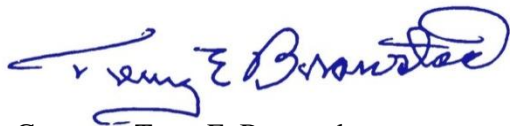
As co-chairs of the Council of Governors (Council), we are pleased to inform you that the Council governors have approved the Statement of Principles for National Guard Equipment and Recapitalization Issues (Statement) as discussed by Governor McDonnell and Governor Purdue at the March 1, 2011, plenary meeting of the Council. On behalf of our colleagues, we thank you for your assistance in developing the attached Statement and look forward to working with you to meet the National Guard's critical resource needs.

Army and Air National Guard forces are being utilized for more missions than ever before and must be equipped to meet the demands placed upon them while ensuring they are interoperable with active duty federal forces. As the Council continues its work on matters pertaining to the National Guard and homeland defense, the Statement of Principles for National Guard Equipment and Recapitalization Issues will serve as a guide to facilitate balanced, concurrent and transparent resourcing for the Army and Air National Guard. It will also continue the tremendous progress that has been made in strengthening the coordination of state and federal military forces.

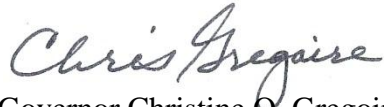
To ensure the Council is adequately addressing the concerns of all governors, we shared this document with all governors' offices. After soliciting our colleagues' feedback, we are pleased to agree to this important document.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry E. Branstad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "T".

Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Co-Chair  
Council of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine O. Gregoire". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a large, stylized initial "C".

Governor Christine O. Gregoire  
Co-Chair  
Council of Governors

Enclosure: Recapitalization Working Group Statement of Principles

Cc: Governor Beverly Purdue

Governor Robert McDonnell

General Martin E. Dempsey, Chief of Staff, United States Army

General Norman A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force