

January 27, 2015  
President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 created an independent National Commission on the Future of the Army (Commission). As you consider appointments, the nation's governors urge you to include senior National Guard leaders to represent states on the Commission.

As commanders-in-chief of our National Guard forces, we care deeply about the Guard's ability to perform critical homeland defense and civil support missions as well as missions overseas. Through the Council of Governors (Council), the nation's governors have been deeply engaged with the Department of Defense (DoD) in an attempt to resolve budget disputes, including proposed cuts to Army National Guard force structure and combat aviation capabilities. It is imperative that the Commission include representation from the National Guard to further discuss and resolve long-term strategic issues that have been raised during recent Council discussions with DoD leaders.

Governors are prepared to recommend potential representatives for your consideration to serve on the Commission. Thank you for your continued support of the National Guard and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Governor Rick Snyder  
Chair  
Homeland Security and Public Safety Cmte.

Governor Terry McAuliffe  
Vice Chair  
Homeland Security and Public Safety Cmte.

Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Co-Chair  
Council of Governors

Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
Co-Chair  
Council of Governors