

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2015

Honorable John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon, Room 3E700
Washington, DC 20310-0101

General Raymond T. Odierno
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Dear Secretary McHugh and General Odierno:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the soldiers, and the Department of the Army (DA) civilians for your continued, dedicated and steadfast service to our nation. Your ongoing efforts to field the world's greatest war-fighters is commendable and a tribute to all those serving, and supporting, our men and women in uniform.

We would also like to thank Secretary McHugh for his recent visit with the members of the Georgia Congressional delegation to discuss issues of importance to the state's military installations. We understand and appreciate the complex decisions you face as you attempt to balance training, readiness and modernization in the current budget environment. We in the Congress continue to deal with the budget and can assure you that we will work to ensure that the Army has the resources it needs to perform its missions throughout this increasingly unstable world.

We have closely monitored the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) process that the Army is currently dealing with in order to comply with the funding caps associated with the Budget Control Act of 2011 and Sequestration. The potential reduction in Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) is devastating, and hopefully can be minimized as we continue our efforts to reduce the budgetary impacts on the Department of Defense (DoD). Hopefully, these efforts will help maintain the force structure necessary to respond to strategic requirements and not be driven solely by budget mandates.

We also want to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of maintaining the current force structure of the 3rd Infantry Division. The 3rd BCT at Ft. Benning, and the 1st BCT and 2nd BCTs at Ft. Stewart provide deployable, war-fighting capabilities for the Army. Also, the 3rd Infantry Division's regional alignment with US Army Europe is currently proving to be invaluable in the current state of tension and instability in Eastern Europe. The Division's current force structure allows its BCTs to project power and influence while providing seamless training and support to the Maneuver Center of Excellence.

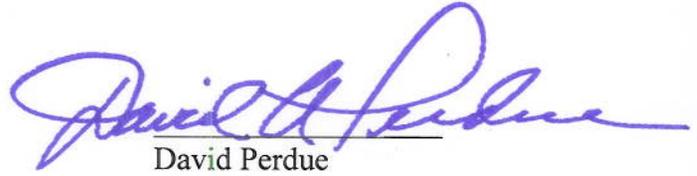
The value and effectiveness of the BCTs at Ft. Stewart and Ft. Benning are simply indispensable to our nation and to our state. We cannot understate the immense pride that we have in our men and women who serve in the 3rd Infantry Division and will continue to honor its role as "Rock of the Marne" by supporting the Division throughout the current evaluation process. The military value provided by all three BCTs is paramount to today's Army's force structure, and we strongly support their continued inclusion in the Army's future.

Again, we thank you for your service, and your consideration of our request as you proceed with your SPEA evaluation process.

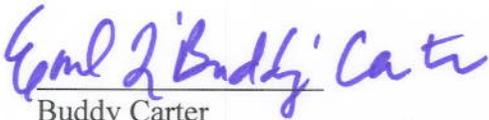
Sincerely,



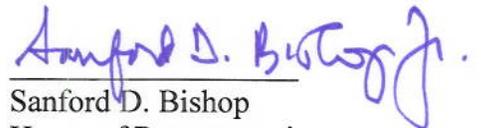
Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



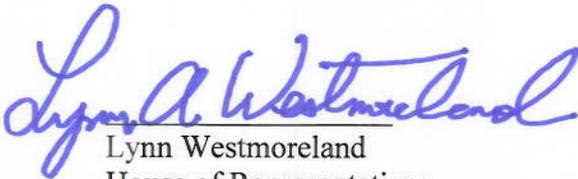
David Perdue
United States Senator



Buddy Carter
House of Representatives



Sanford D. Bishop
House of Representatives



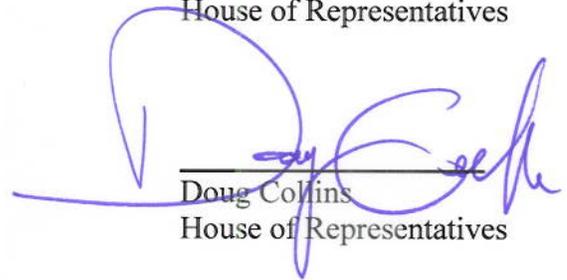
Lynn Westmoreland
House of Representatives



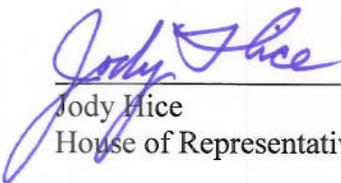
Rob Woodall
House of Representatives



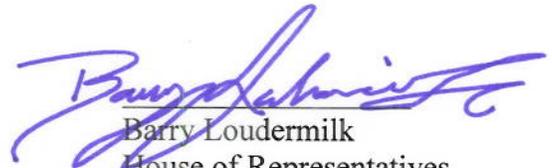
Austin Scott
House of Representatives



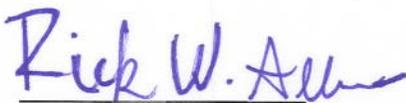
Doug Collins
House of Representatives



Jody Hice
House of Representatives



Barry Loudermilk
House of Representatives



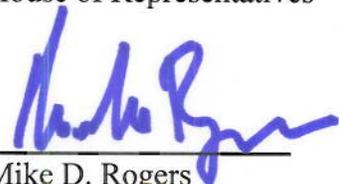
Rick Allen
House of Representatives



David Scott
House of Representatives



Tom Graves
House of Representatives



Mike D. Rogers
House of Representatives