

# United States Senate

August 13, 2018

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairman Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairman Member Leahy, and Ranking Member Lowey:

I write to express my support for the Air National Guard Military Construction funding included in Section 125 of the House-passed Veterans Affairs and Military Construction Appropriations bill. Military construction efforts suffered greatly due to sequestration and funding through continuing resolutions. As a result, our military's infrastructure is inadequate to the needs of a force racing to rebuild readiness in the face of unprecedented operational requirements.

Section 125 provides additional funding for each service to address projects on their unfunded priority lists for Fiscal Year 2019. The Air National Guard's unfunded priority list includes:

- Alert Facilities at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Louisiana
- Aircraft Apron at Great Falls International Airport, Montana
- Fire Station at Mansfield Lahm Airport, Ohio
- Small Arms Range at Duluth International Airport, Minnesota
- Small Arms Range at Rickenbacker International Airport, Ohio

All of the Air National Guards unfunded priorities are authorized by the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, which recently received President Trump's signature. I

believe that our military needs the opportunity to build long term readiness, and that requires consistent investment into the critical infrastructure that has long gone neglected. As the conference committee negotiations proceed, I urge the Senate to recede to this House-passed provision. Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to working with you to ensure that our military is fully funded to provide for our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jon Tester", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Tester  
United States Senator