

November 16, 2012

The Honorable Sam Farr
Co-Chair, Defense Communities Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins
Co-Chair, Defense Communities Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Farr and Representative Jenkins:

The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) – the leading organization representing communities and states with a significant military presence – stands ready to work with you and your colleagues in the remainder of the 112th Congress to continue strengthening the communities that support and have supported U.S. military missions. On behalf of ADC's 200 communities, states, regions, private-sector members and partner organizations, I express hope that you and your colleagues will work together in the coming weeks toward resolution on the most pressing issues facing our communities.

Among the most immediate concerns is the need to reverse sequestration. Our communities would be among the first impacted by drastic defense spending cuts if implemented in January 2013 as planned; there would be immediate direct effects, including furloughed civilian personnel and reduced infrastructure investment in communities and on bases. The indirect impact, harder to predict but potentially as devastating, includes higher unemployment rates, lower tax revenues, struggling small businesses, the relocation of skilled workers, fewer education resources, less veterans support, increased public assistance needs, and an inability to plan for short- or long-term regional economic goals.

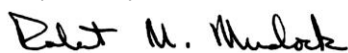
Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, addressing the ADC Annual Conference in August, said "that if sequestration is allowed to go into effect, it'll be a disaster for national defense, and it would be a disaster, frankly, for defense communities as well. And, frankly, it's not only true about the DoD budget, it's also true relating to the domestic discretionary cuts that will deprive communities of the federal support they need in areas like education."

Indeed, pending appropriations matters outside sequestration are also crucial to the economic growth of our communities. In particular, ADC members are hopeful Congress will use the "lame duck" session as an opportunity to complete action on the FY 2013 Department of Defense Appropriations bill and the FY 2013 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

The Association of Defense Communities also supports swift passage of the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Further, ADC is hopeful that the NDAA conference report will include language authorizing more partnerships between communities and the military to provide shared services on installations across the country and in the communities that surround them. Such innovative arrangements, which have been successful in many communities throughout the country, are key to meeting the fiscal challenges facing our country, states and communities.

Like you, we realize that issues of this magnitude are not settled without continued dialogue in Congress and among the American people, and we are eager to be part of that dialogue. Our Association is prepared to work with you in the remaining weeks of the 112th Congress if we may provide information that is helpful in resolving these pending matters facing our nation. Thank you for your service to our country.

Respectfully,



Bob Murdock
President, Association of Defense Communities