April 29, 2014

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The seconds-in-command (Lieutenant Governors, Senate Presidents, and Secretaries of States) of the nation’s states oppose potential cuts to the Army National Guard found in various versions of the fiscal 2015 U.S. Army budgets circulating on Capitol Hill. As a unique state-based military force, the National Guard is the only military force that is shared by the states and the federal government. It is a ready, reliable, and essential force that responds to national disasters and emergencies, and is critical to peace and security at home and abroad.

As the executive branch seconds-in-command of the states, we appreciate the need to examine military structure and readiness to meet both ongoing and new threats amidst current budget considerations. However, some proposed versions of the fiscal 2015 Army National Guard budgets would cut Army National Guard forces to a pre-2001 level. A return to these levels is contrary to the interest of the states and nation and we encourage transparent discussion of active duty and National Guard force structure pre- and post-9/11.

On January 30 of this year, the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force made its final report concluding that the Guard is a cost-effective and invaluable force that should be a critical component of the total force structure. This finding and the ongoing budgetary debate provides strong foundation for a similar independent review of the Army’s future force structure.

Across the many and diverse states we represent, the accomplishments of the National Guard are unparalleled in response to flood, wildfire, storm, and serving our nation overseas. We stand together in support to maintain Army Guard operational capabilities.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Todd Lamb  
Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman  
Oklahoma  
Connecticut  
NLGA Chair  
NLGA Chair-elect

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Lt. Governor Tate Reeves
Mississippi

Senate President Chuck Morse
New Hampshire

Lt. Governor Yvonne Prettner Solon
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Wyoming

Lt. Governor Dan Forest
North Carolina