



National Lieutenant Governors Association

April 14, 2015

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

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned seconds-in-command (Lieutenant Governors, Senate Presidents, and Secretaries of States) of the nation's states and territories oppose potential cuts to the Army National Guard as found in the fiscal 2016 U.S. Army budget proposal. 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 and territories, we appreciate the need to examine military structure and readiness to meet both ongoing and new threats amidst current budget considerations. However, the Army has proposed to eliminate more than 8,000 Army National Guard positions, including 1,700 full-time positions necessary to maintain the Guard's readiness and transfer its Apache helicopters to the active component.

These 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.

Congress responded to these concerns last year by limiting the transfer of Apaches and establishing an independent commission to review these proposals. We encourage you to maintain the Army National Guard's personnel and combat aviation capability until the commission has had time to complete its review.

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.

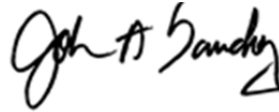
Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman
Connecticut
NLGA Chair

Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
Iowa
NLGA Chair-elect



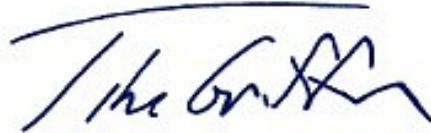
Lt. Governor Matt Michels
South Dakota
NLGA Treasurer



Lt. Governor John A. Sanchez
New Mexico



Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno
New Jersey



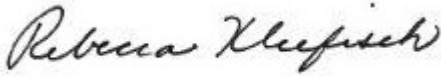
Lt. Governor Tim Griffin
Arkansas



Lt. Governor Phil Scott
Vermont



Lt. Governor Kay Ivey
Alabama



Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch
Wisconsin



Lt. Governor Peter Kinder
Missouri



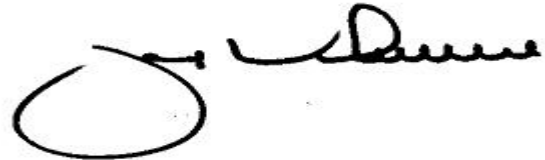
Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann
Indiana




Lt. Governor Angela McLean
Montana



Secretary of State David E. Bernier
Puerto Rico



Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne
Louisiana



Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul
New York



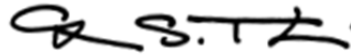
Lt. Governor Jeff Coyer
Kansas



Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey
Tennessee



Secretary of State Michele Reagan
Arizona



Lt. Governor Shan S. Tsutsui
Hawaii



Lt. Governor Tate Reeves
Mississippi



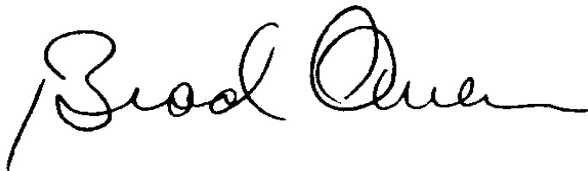
Lt. Governor Spencer Cox
Utah



Secretary of State Edward F. Murray III
Wyoming



Lt. Governor Mike Stack
Pennsylvania



Lt. Governor Brad Owen
Washington



Lt. Governor Osbert Potter
U.S. Virgin Islands