



National Lieutenant Governors Association

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.

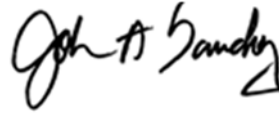
Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Todd Lamb
Oklahoma
NLGA Chair

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman
Connecticut
NLGA Chair-elect



Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
Iowa
NLGA Treasurer



Lt. Governor John A. Sanchez
New Mexico



Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno
New Jersey



Lt. Governor Jerry Abramson
Kentucky



Lt. Governor Phil Scott
Vermont



Lt. Governor Kay Ivey
Alabama



Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch
Wisconsin



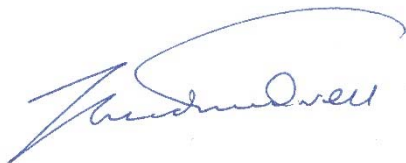
Lt. Governor Peter Kinder
Missouri



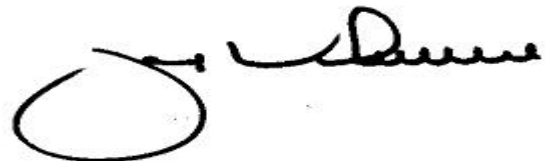
Secretary of State Kate Brown
Oregon



Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
Illinois



Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell
Alaska



Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne
Louisiana



Lt. Governor Casey Cagle
Georgia



Lt. Governor Jeffrey Kessler
West Virginia



Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts
Rhode Island



Lt. Governor Ralph Northam
Virginia




Lt. Governor Matt Michels
South Dakota



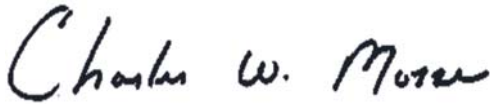
Lt. Governor Jim Cawley
Pennsylvania



Lt. Governor Tate Reeves
Mississippi



Lt. Governor Matt Denn
Delaware



Senate President Chuck Morse
New Hampshire



Secretary of State Max Maxfield
Wyoming



Lt. Governor Yvonne Prettnr Solon
Minnesota



Lt. Governor Dan Forest
North Carolina



Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann
Indiana



Lt. Governor Brian Calley
Michigan



Secretary of State Ken Bennett
Arizona



Lt. Governor Brian Krolicki
Nevada



Lt. Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga
American Samoa



Lt. Governor Angela McLean
Montana



Lt. Governor Spencer Cox
Utah



Lt. Governor David Dewhurst
Texas



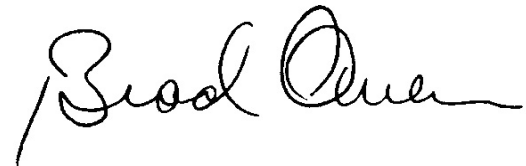
Lt. Governor Anthony Brown
Maryland



Lt. Governor Shan S. Tsutsui
Hawaii



Lt. Governor Mary Taylor
Ohio



Lt. Governor Brad Owen
Washington



Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom
California