



Mary Fallin
Governor of Oklahoma
Chair

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Vice Chair

Dan Crippen
Executive Director

February 28, 2014

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

Dear Mr. President:

The nation's governors strongly oppose the potential cuts to the Army National Guard advocated by the U.S. Army's fiscal 2015 budget request.

For more than a decade, our National Guard has demonstrated it is a cost-effective, operational force that is critical to our national security at home and abroad.

As commanders-in-chief, we appreciate the need to reorganize, restructure and modernize the military to meet new threats and economic realities. All sectors of the military need to be involved in meeting the targets set by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the realities of having fewer forces engaged abroad. In doing so, however, the Army Guard's operational capabilities and 350,000 end strength level must be preserved.

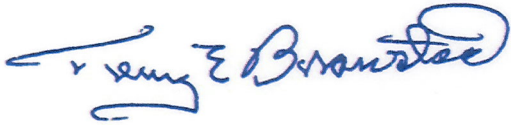
The Army's proposed cuts suggest a pre-2001 strategic reserve construct. Governors are extremely proud of the role that the National Guard plays in protecting this nation and its citizens. The modern National Guard is a highly experienced and capable combat force and an essential state partner in responding to domestic disasters and emergencies. A return to a pre-9/11 role squanders the investment and value of the Guard and discredits its accomplishments at home and as an active combat force.

Two years ago we opposed similar efforts to dramatically cut personnel and equipment from the Air National Guard. Congress subsequently chose not to impose the cuts and called for a National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force. That commission recently concluded that the Guard is a cost-effective and invaluable force that should be a critical component of the total force structure. The commission's conclusions and the ongoing Army debate strengthen the case for a similar independent review of the Army's future force structure and active and reserve component mix.

We respectfully request that you reconsider proposed cuts to the Army National Guard and changes to the Guard's combat aviation capabilities and that you work with us to fashion solutions that provide a scalable, cost-effective force that best serves the interests of our nation.

Sincerely,

Governor Mary Fallin, Chair
Oklahoma



Governor Terry Branstad
Co-Chair, Council of Governors
Iowa



Governor Martin O'Malley
Co-Chair, Council of Governors
Maryland




Governor Robert Bentley
Alabama



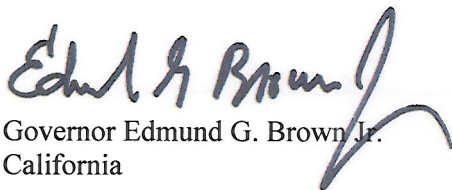
Governor Sean Parnell
Alaska



Governor Jan Brewer
Arizona



Governor Mike Beebe
Arkansas




Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
California



Governor Dannel Malloy
Connecticut



Governor Jack Markell
Delaware



Governor Rick Scott
Florida



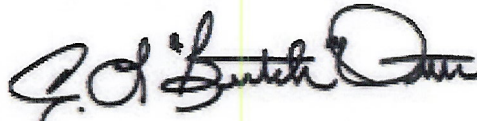
Governor Nathan Deal
Georgia



Governor Eddie Baza Calvo
Guam



Governor Neil Abercrombie
Hawaii



Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
Idaho



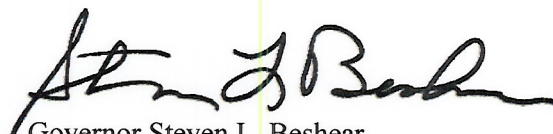
Governor Pat Quinn
Illinois



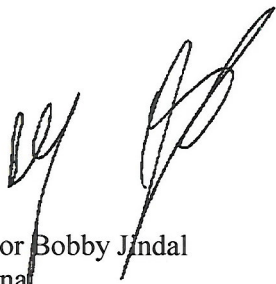
Governor Mike Pence
Indiana



Governor Sam Brownback
Kansas



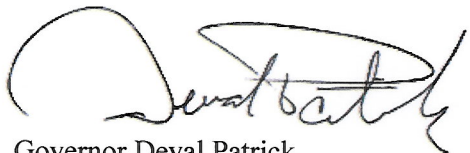
Governor Steven L. Beshear
Kentucky



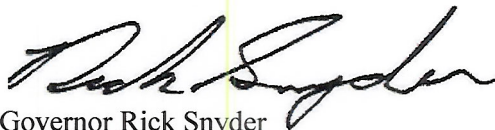
Governor Bobby Jindal
Louisiana



Governor Paul LePage
Maine



Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts



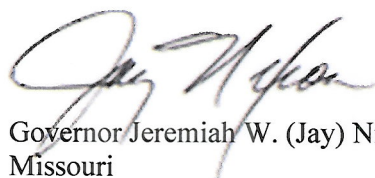
Governor Rick Snyder
Michigan



Governor Mark Dayton
Minnesota



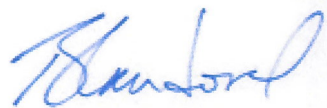
Governor Phil Bryant
Mississippi



Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Missouri



Governor Steve Bullock
Montana



Governor Brian Sandoval
Nevada



Governor Maggie Hassan
New Hampshire



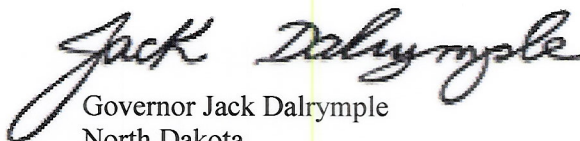
Governor Chris Christie
New Jersey



Governor Susana Martinez
New Mexico



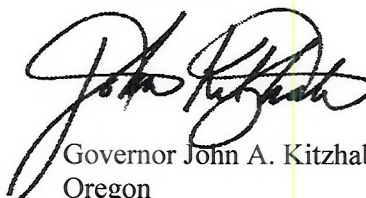
Governor Pat McCrory
North Carolina



Governor Jack Dalrymple
North Dakota



Governor John Kasich
Ohio



Governor John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Oregon



Governor Tom Corbett
Pennsylvania



Governor Alejandro Javier Garcia Padilla
Puerto Rico



Governor Lincoln Chafee
Rhode Island



Governor Nikki R. Haley
South Carolina



Governor Dennis Daugaard
South Dakota



Governor Bill Haslam
Tennessee



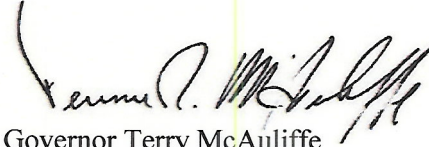
Governor Rick Perry
Texas



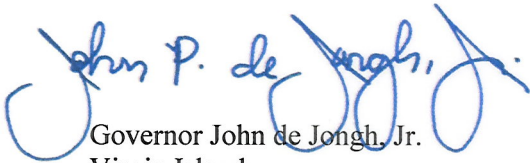
Governor Gary Herbert
Utah



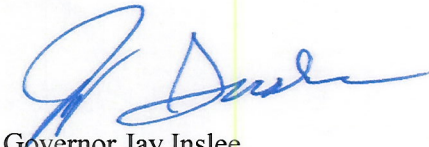
Governor Peter Shumlin
Vermont



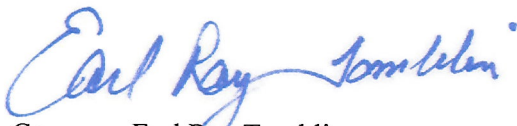
Governor Terry McAuliffe
Virginia



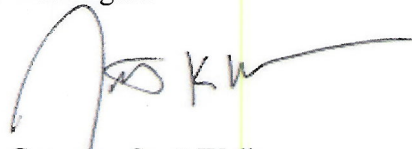
Governor John de Jongh, Jr.
Virgin Islands



Governor Jay Inslee
Washington



Governor Earl Ray Tomblin
West Virginia



Governor Scott Walker
Wisconsin



Governor Matthew Mead
Wyoming