May 3, 2017

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith,

As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) urges you to include legislation sponsored by Congressman Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam). This legislation would require a report by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau on personnel, training and equipment needs of the non-federalized Guard in responding to natural and manmade disasters.

As you may know, funding for equipment for the National Guard comes from accounts for the Army and the Air Force, as well as the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA). These three funding streams create oversight issues and allow for gaps in resourcing National Guard requirements for domestic response. Additionally, in the majority of domestic emergencies since 9/11, the National Guard has comprised approximately 96 percent of the military support provided for response.

In recent years, this Committee has included report language in the NDAA to ensure the National Guard is properly trained, staffed and equipped to protect American lives and property during domestic emergencies. Unfortunately, this provision has ultimately been removed during the conference process.

We ask you to reaffirm your support for the National Guard’s ability to continue to respond to domestic emergencies by ensuring the inclusion of these reporting requirements in the FY18 NDAA. The adoption of this key provision would assist the Department of Defense, Congress and the Governors in ensuring that the National Guard has adequate and appropriate resources to support state and federal authorities in prevention and response to disasters.

We thank this Committee for your consideration of this request and for your continued support of the men and women of the National Guard.

Sincerely,

Roy Robinson  
Brigadier General (Ret)  
President, NGAUS

Frank Yoakum  
Sergeant Major (Ret)  
Executive Director, EANGUS