

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2024

The Honorable Christine E. Wormuth
Secretary of the Army
Department of the Army
101 Army Pentagon Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Secretary Wormuth,

We write to you today to express our deep and growing concerns with recent requests to halt the commercial sale of certain ammunition manufactured at the government-owned Lake City Army Ammunition Plant (“Lake City”) as permitted by the Department of Defense (DOD) contract. We strongly advise you against acting on these ill-advised requests, as it will fundamentally harm military readiness.

The DOD has long included a provision in the Lake City operating contract to allow for the commercial utilization of the facility for the expressed purpose of supporting military readiness. DOD implemented this provision based on its experience at the onset of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan when the Lake City arsenal was unable to meet the war needs of the U.S. military. Machines were not operational, and there were not enough trained and skilled employees to meet production demands. In an effort to meet the needs of military operations following the unexpected attacks of September 11, 2001, DOD had to turn to foreign partners to meet small caliber ammunition needs. In an effort to meet production demands and prevent previous mistakes, DOD modified contractual obligations by Lake City operators to allow for the ability to retain a skilled workforce and to develop production lines that can surge to meet the constantly evolving threats that face our nation.

The availability of ammunition—especially during wartime—requires facilities, production equipment, a skilled workforce, and ammunition supply chains to remain in constant operation. A change in policy as requested in the January 9, 2024 letter led by New York Attorney General Letitia James would severely disrupt the military ammunition supply chain and result in a 55% reduction of skilled workers. Therefore, the inclusion of the commercial utilization provision in the Lake City contract was—and remains—necessary to maintain military readiness.

We strongly urge you to reject calls to ban the commercial sale of ammunition produced at Lake City because it will undermine military readiness and harm our national security.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senator



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



John Thune
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Jim Risch
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



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M. Michael Rounds
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Thom Tillis
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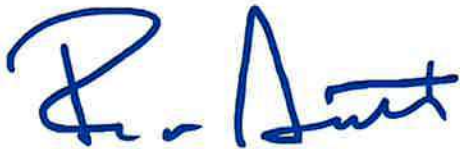
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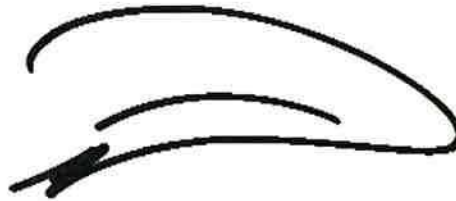
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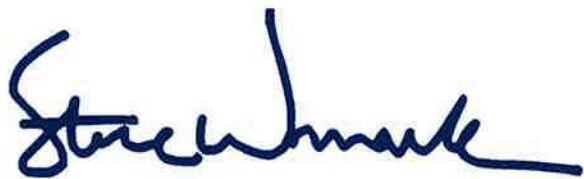
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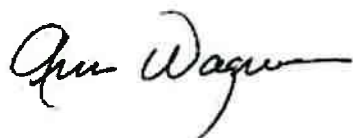
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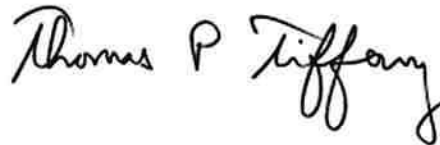
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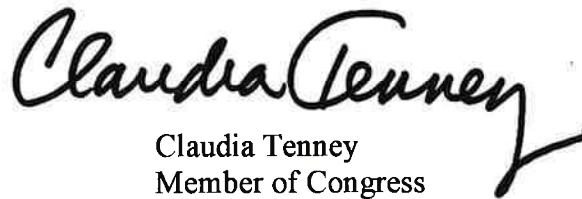
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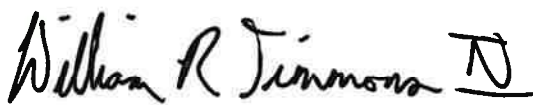
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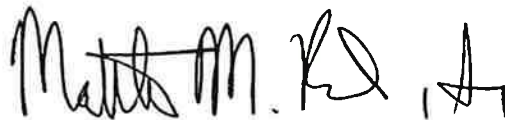
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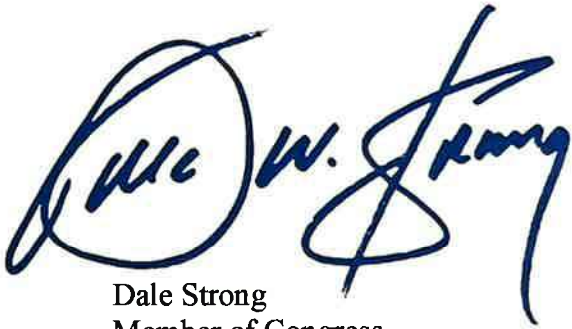
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