



NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

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March 13, 2008

Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

The National Guard Association of the United States applauds your introduction of the "National Guard Empowerment and State-National Defense Integration Act of 2008." Your legislation is the logical next step in fully codifying the initiatives that had their birth two years ago in the National Guard Empowerment Act.

With the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2008, many of the substantive elements of "empowerment" for the National Guard have been presented to the Department of Defense for immediate implementation in accordance with the wishes of the Congress. We are eagerly awaiting their timely response.

Meanwhile, we support the additional well-reasoned legislative remedies contained in your new bill that will knit together the missing pieces of the empowerment concept. In our view, empowerment for the National Guard is simply a restatement, in contemporary language, of the reliance placed on the National Guard by the framers of the United States Constitution in Article 1, Section 8.

Thank you for leading this effort for the American people.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Koper
Brigadier General, USAF (ret)
President

Cc: Honorable Kit Bond
United States Senate
274 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510