

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4710

February 21, 2013

The Honorable John McHugh  
Secretary  
Department of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

General Frank Grass  
Chief  
National Guard Bureau  
1636 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1636

Dear Secretary McHugh and General Grass:

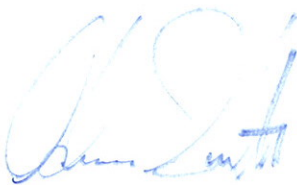
As you determine your final recommendations for the FY2014 Military Construction program and additions to the construction Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP) we urge you to prioritize aging National Guard Readiness Centers on the list.

We are particularly concerned about the 102 year-old Washington Army National Guard (WAARNG) "red-tagged" Tacoma Armory. Located in the densely populated South Puget Sound and Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia urban area, the Tacoma Armory was designated by local building officials to be "unsafe," and can no longer be utilized for federal or state training and operations.

For the last ten years, the Washington National Guard has requested that the Tacoma Armory be added to the FYDP and funded through the Army National Guard Military Construction (MILCON) program. Even though the Tacoma facility has been acknowledged by the National Guard Bureau to be a top priority, we still do not have this critical facility programmed for replacement. This facility is in danger of collapsing within a densely populated city and is not only a vital military force readiness need, but is also a public safety need.

We are resolute in our commitment to seek a successful, timely solution to replace the Tacoma Armory with a safe, modern training facility for the Washington National Guard. This year presents difficult funding decisions and challenges, but we urge you to consider the condition and age of this facility while considering military construction priorities for Fiscal Year 2014.

Thank you for your assistance on this issue.

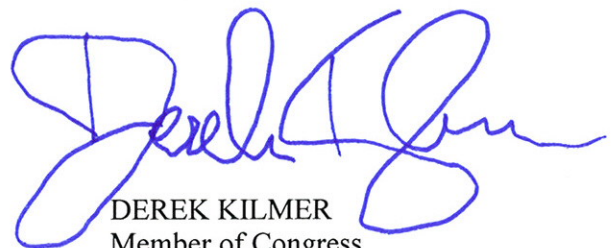


ADAM SMITH  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



DENNY HECK  
Member of Congress



DEREK KILMER  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment  
Lieutenant General William Ingram, Director, Army National Guard