

FRED UPTON
6TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

**COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE**
CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 12, 2014

Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp
Attn: MDA CIS EIS
6601 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66211-1504

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Department of Defense studies potential locations for an East Coast missile defense site, I wish to express my strong support for the Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Michigan, as the future home of this important national security mission.

Strategically located between Chicago and Detroit, the region surrounding Fort Custer boasts the robust critical infrastructure necessary to support the construction and long-term success of this mission, including surface and air transportation; energy; housing; and education. Positioned near two major interstate highways (I-94 and I-69), the location is a stone's throw away from the 110th Airlift Wing at the W.K. Kellogg Air National Guard Base, which boasts a 10,000-foot runway capable of meeting Department of Defense needs. Presently home to the Michigan Army National Guard's 177th Regiment, the Regional Training Institute, and the Augusta Armory, the Fort Custer Training Center is the heart of a community with a proud and longstanding history of supporting our military and its veterans.

Public support for the selection of Fort Custer has been overwhelming at every level. Both our state's Governor and Adjutant General are strong supporters and recognize the importance of this mission. The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, and the Michigan State Senate (among others) have all passed resolutions formally endorsing the site, and the Michigan State House is expected to do the same. Fort Custer also has the backing of the region's two leading economic development organizations – Southwest Michigan First and Battle Creek Unlimited – as well as the recent endorsement of the *Kalamazoo Gazette* – the area's largest print and online news source.

I recently attended the Missile Defense Agency's public scoping meeting in Augusta, which was preceded by a tour of the two potential interceptor sites at the training center location. The meeting was well-planned, informative, and well-attended – MDA leadership and staff deserve to be commended for a job well done.

I am one who has always recognized that providing for our national security and care of our veterans are priorities that rise above politics. I have never hesitated to stand by our Armed

DC OFFICE:

2183 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2206
(202) 225-3761
FAX: (202) 225-4986

MICHIGAN HOME OFFICES:

157 SOUTH KALAMAZOO MALL
SUITE 180
KALAMAZOO, MI 49007
(269) 385-0039
FAX: (269) 385-2888

720 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085
(269) 982-1986
FAX: (269) 982-0237

<http://upton.house.gov>

Forces to ensure that they have the training, resources, and funding necessary to succeed both here at home and abroad. I have also supported efforts to provide for greater collaboration with our first responders to prepare for any contingency.

With growing threats from rogue states like Iran and North Korea – along with emerging threats posed by well-financed terrorist organizations like ISIS – we as a nation need to be prepared for the worst. The location of a future interceptor site is a decision that is vital to our national security and thus must be based on that above all else. That is why I am excited that we have such a top-notch site ready to go here in Southwest Michigan. I respectfully urge you to locate the next interceptor site at Fort Custer.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Upton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Upton
Member of Congress