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HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS



Joe Courtney
Congress of the United States
2nd District, Connecticut

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2449 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
P (202) 225-2076
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICES:
55 MAIN STREET, SUITE 250
NORWICH, CT 06360
P (860) 886-0139
F (860) 886-2974
77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J
ENFIELD, CT 06032
P (860) 741-6011
F (860) 741-6036

June 03, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Carter
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz, and Ranking Member Carter:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we write to request your full support of the President's budget request of \$17.5 million in Army National Guard Military Construction funds for a new Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) Readiness Center in the town of Putnam, Connecticut.

The Putnam Readiness Center will primarily support the CTARNG's 643rd Military Police Company and its training, administrative, and logistical requirements to ensure a ready force for federal missions and state emergencies that the CTARNG has lacked in northeast Connecticut for over a decade. The 643rd Military Police Company is currently stationed in an Armory in Westbrook, Connecticut built in 1955 that does not meet current anti-terrorism and force protection standards.

Construction of the Readiness Center will be on land owned by the State of Connecticut that has already been secured and prepared with state-matching funds. Design of the Readiness Center will be completed by August 2021. If the President's budget request for the 45,000 square foot Readiness Center is approved, the CTARNG anticipates award of the construction contract prior to mid-2022.

If the Putnam Readiness Center is not funded, the CTARNG's ability to meet its readiness and training objectives will continue to be adversely affected. The lack of proper training, storage, and administrative areas will continue to impair the attainment of required mobilization readiness levels as well as emergency response capabilities.

With your support for this portion of the President's FY 2022 budget request, the Soldiers of the CTARNG will be provided a modern facility with adequate troop areas, interior and exterior, capable of supporting their training, administrative, and logistical requirements. We urge your support for the President's FY 2022 budget request on behalf of the men and women of the CTARNG, and safety and security of the citizens of Connecticut and the United States.

Sincerely,



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress