

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As Members of Congress who share the commitment and responsibility to ensuring the nation's safety and security, we write with urgent concern regarding a decision by the Department of Defense to divest attack aviation battalions in the Army National Guard in Pennsylvania and Arizona.

Last week, Arizona received orders to transfer and shut down their remaining AH-64 units. These orders were approved and relayed as Members from our delegation, including those who serve on the House Armed Services Committee, await responses to requests for information from DOD to clarify critical points of contention on a number of issues that the Army has identified as continued justification for divestiture.

Bipartisan opposition to these measures, spanning three Congresses and two Administrations, continues to hold that the divestiture of trained and deployable ARBs has irreversible risks and implications for years to come. Degrading attack aviation capability and diminishing force readiness and strategic depth undermines "fight tonight" requirements. Based on responses we have received and relevant testimony thus far, we do not have confidence that this decision supports the National Defense Strategy nor Total Army readiness. We continue to assert that the pressures, risks, and threats that led to the original ARI are vastly different than those we face today.

Like you, we answer to the men and women in uniform who serve our nation. As Commander-in-Chief, you have the authority to delay this decision pending additional review of Congressional concerns. Accordingly, we urge you to issue an immediate suspension of the transfer orders and unit deactivations and direct DOD leadership to work with Congress on a sustainable, long-term solution to the continuing challenges we face regarding warfighter readiness.

We strongly urge you to so direct DOD in advance of the impending transfers and deactivations. We eagerly await your response.

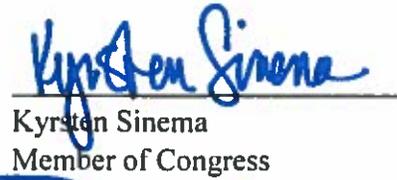
Sincerely,


Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress


Martha McSally
Member of Congress



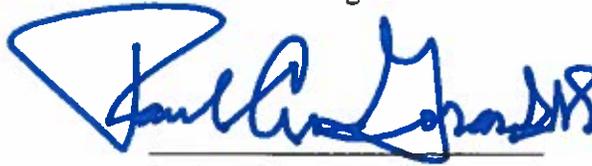
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress