



30 October 2014

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Levin:

On behalf of the members of the National Guard Association of the United States and the Association of the United States Army, we write to urge you to remove the specter of sequestration from defense funding.

The continued effects of sequestration on the Department of Defense will cause the Army, Active, Guard and Reserve, to fall into unreadiness. An Army with tiered readiness, missed drill days, pilot training backlogs, cancelled schooling and unit Soldier training, is a hollow Army without the professional leader development and unit readiness required to capably defend this nation.

Continuing sequestration will reduce the Army to 420,000 active component Soldiers, 315,000 in the National Guard and 185,000 in the Army Reserve. The nation will be left with its smallest ground forces since 1940 – unable to carry out our defense strategy. Troop levels so low put at risk our role as a guarantor of world security and embolden our enemies.

Reduced funding and funding uncertainty as well as reduced investment in modernization and acquisition leave our warfighters poorly equipped and causes defense industry cutbacks and job losses which weaken our economy.

Sequestration, with its rigid implementation, does not provide Army leaders the funding certainty or financial flexibility to responsibly structure, fund and maintain the Army of the future. The fiscal process must be put back in order so that our Army can maintain readiness and its ability to defend the nation. End Sequestration Now.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired
President & CEO, AUSA

GUS HARGETT
Major General (Ret.), USA
President, NGAUS