



**ASSOCIATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES ARMY**



**MARINE CORPS**  
ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION  
EST 1913



17 April 2019

Chairman James Inhofe  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Adam Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Jack Reed  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Mac Thornberry  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Reed and Ranking Member Thornberry:

We write to request your consideration and support to modify Section 1045 to the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act. In this era of great power competition, Section 1045 is placing the United States at a disadvantage. Due to that provision, retiring senior general officers, admirals and senior DoD civilian leaders are not able to provide critical strategic advice and leadership to American companies on matters that involve the Defense Department for a period of two years, undermining a resource that collectively keeps the American defense industrial base at the forefront of capabilities.

We, the collective Associations—AIA, AUSA, AUSN, MCA&F, and NDIA—recommend modifications to statute to align closer with legislation covering direct lobbying and internal corporate strategy and planning advice restrictions for Members of Congress and senior congressional staff.

We encourage the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to consider modifying Section 1045 to include a one-year restriction on direct lobbying (versus two-year) and to remove the restriction on internal activities (meetings for strategy development, engagement/meeting planning, etc.).

These modifications to the NDAA would benefit national security and American industry—both traditional defense companies and non-traditional defense companies—while still providing sufficient protection by restricting direct lobbying for one year. Ultimately, the nation and its warfighters would be the beneficiaries.

Thank you for considering our recommendations. We would be pleased to meet with you or your staff to discuss this in person.



Eric Fanning  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Aerospace Industries Association



Christopher Cole  
Rear Admiral (Ret.), U.S. Navy  
Chief Executive Officer  
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