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*ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY*

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10 August 2012

I have written twice before on behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army to urge immediate congressional action to prevent the triggering of sequestration in January, 2013 as it pertains to the Department of Defense (DoD) budget. Perhaps the third time will be the charm.

Action is needed now, in part, because defense contractors must plan for the effects of sequestration far in advance of its implementation so they can continue to support vital DoD equipment and service requirements. In addition to the defense industrial base, now business groups like the National Electrical Manufacturers Association are sounding the alarm. That association's president, Evan R. Gaddis said, "Companies see the writing on the wall and business decisions are now being made on this." Business leaders are cancelling capital investments and delaying hiring because of the uncertainty surrounding the potential implementation of sequestration.

Ending the specter of sequestration hovering over our defense industrial base and manufacturing sector must occur soon, and the solution must be a balanced one that acknowledges the fact that our nation faces a wide array of security threats around the world. Because our partners in national defense – contractors and now manufacturers, are reducing workforces and budgets in anticipation of a sequestration trigger, now less than five months away, I urge you upon your return from recess to direct immediate effort to a solution for this potentially devastating blow to our national security.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN

General, USA Retired