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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247

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March 18, 2022

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor, State of New York
Executive Chamber, NYS Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
NYS Senate Majority Leader
Room 330, NYS Capitol
Albany, New York 12247

Hon. Carl Heastie
NYS Assembly Speaker
Legislative Office Building Room 932
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie,

We write to you to follow up on a letter previously sent to the Executive office in February regarding base retention funds, which play a critical role in the economy of many of our state's communities and have serious ramifications for the state's emergency preparedness. While we were disappointed to not see these funds in the Executive Budget, the 30-day amendments, or the Legislative one house budgets, we remain hopeful that we are able to secure these monies in the final enacted budget.

For years, the New York State Senate prioritized military installations and the communities that host them and it is of paramount importance that the state return to such a policy. From 2012 to 2018, the Senate Majority provided aid through the Military Base Retention and Research program within the Urban Development Corporation (UDC). No new funding has been provided since 2018, which is a trend that cannot continue. Recent global events should remind policymakers of the importance of military readiness, which we must prioritize in New York.

First and foremost, these funds have helped strengthen our nation's defense and protect key community assets from federal cuts or closures. Additionally, many current and former military installations have transformed into economic engines. Sectors such as housing and construction, health care, manufacturing and technology, and retail services thrive in base communities. Many of these industries will play a crucial role in the future of our state's economy and we will rely on them for the jobs of tomorrow. Finally, many of these installations and communities have developed advanced emergency preparedness capabilities. They train first responders for a

myriad of potential emergencies and their mission readiness extends beyond the facility's immediate vicinity to protect all New York communities.

For these reasons, we ask that you include \$5 million base retention funds in this year's enacted budget to preserve and create jobs and strengthen our state's emergency response capabilities - particularly after years of sustained inaction. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you on this and other important issues impacting New York State residents.

Respectfully,



Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



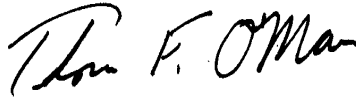
Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Fred Akshar
52nd District



Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



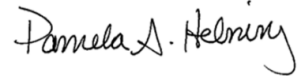
Senator Daphne Jordan
43rd District



Senator Mike Martucci
42nd District



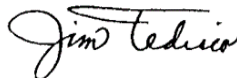
Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Jim Tedisco
49th District



Senator Phil Boyle
4th District



Senator Patty Ritchie
48th District



Senator Patrick Gallivan
59th District



Senator Ed Rath
61st District



Senator Sue Serino
41st District



Senator Alexis Weik
3rd District



Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
47th District



Senator Mario Mattera
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