

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE
48TH DISTRICT
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES**

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July 12, 2016

Vice Admiral James Syring
MDA/HQ
5700 18th Street, Bldg 245
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5573

Dear Vice Admiral Syring:

As the Missile Defense Agency weighs options for placement of a new Continental United States Interceptor Site (CIS) on the East Coast, I write to formally express my strong support for construction of a new CIS at Fort Drum, New York.

In recent decades, Fort Drum and its 10th Mountain Division soldiers have developed a reputation of always being ready at a moment's notice to answer calls to defend our Nation. The addition of a CIS at Fort Drum is a natural fit, and would further strengthen the installation as it works to defend the people of the United States from various threats around the globe.

One of Fort Drum's biggest assets is the unique, synergistic relationship it has developed with the North Country. It's often said that Fort Drum, and the local community are one community—working to support each other and achieve common goals. Just as 10th Mountain Division soldiers and their families have helped to strengthen the North Country, local residents have throughout the years supported tremendous growth at Fort Drum, and would certainly be ready to again welcome another advancement at the installation.

It is my understanding that if Fort Drum is selected as a new CIS, it would potentially result in the overall creation of nearly 1,500 jobs, as well as \$220 million per-year in economic activity in our region. With key assets—like available housing, quality health care, and top-notch schools—we have the resources to support a growing workforce dedicated to the construction and operation of a CIS.

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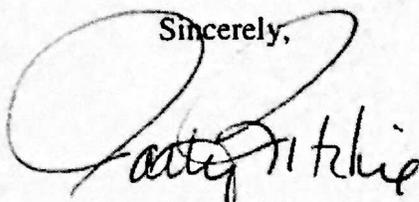
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In recent years, I've been proud to lead the charge in Albany and advocate for support of Fort Drum. New York State has proudly made investments totaling \$15 million that have been utilized to help pay for land and easement purchases around Fort Drum's perimeter, enhancements to local health care services benefitting troops and their families, as well as to support Fort Drum community-based support groups. These investments are helping deliver a message that New York State is committed to Fort Drum, and wants to see it succeed—and grow—well into the future.

As a lifelong resident of Northern New York, I have seen firsthand the growth and change at Fort Drum, as well as the positive impact it has had on our local communities. Fort Drum is ready to continue to grow and become even further equipped to meet the challenges facing our world today, and the people of the North Country are ready to continue to support the Army's mission. I firmly believe that the installation is the ideal site for a new CIS and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Ritchie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Patty Ritchie
State Senator

PAR:svc