

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2015

The Honorable Ash Carter
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Carter,

As members of the New York Congressional Delegation we wanted to highlight the importance of Fort Drum and New York's commitment to the installation. Additionally, we wanted to bring to your attention a listening session which will occur on Friday, March 20, 2015. This listening session is an opportunity for the state of New York and the North Country community to raise awareness for the potential loss of 16,000 soldier and civilian jobs to Fort Drum due to the drastic cuts to our nation's military under sequestration and the Budget Control Act.

Fort Drum is a critical and imperative installation to our U.S. armed forces because of its training facilities and capabilities, power projection, quality of life, expansibility and geographic distribution. The installation is home to the 10th Mountain Division, the army's most-deployed division since 1990. The 10th Mountain Division is a light infantry division and is comprised of confident, resilient and competent warriors.

Fort Drum's training capabilities also provide each branch of our armed forces, as well as the National Guard, with the necessary skills to rapidly deploy anywhere around the world, trained and combat-ready. In fact, over 25,000 reserve and National Guard soldiers train annually at Fort Drum. The installation is capable of meeting the needs to support not only our nation's army and joint forces, but also international forces in order to maintain relations or coordination with our allied nations.

Fort Drum is unique in its ability to provide training for law enforcement agencies which include federal, New York state, county and local entities. New York State and its federal representatives are dedicated to sustaining Fort Drum, its service members and their families, by investing in the community and infrastructure in order to maintain a well-positioned and proven integral asset to our nation's armed forces. Please feel free to contact our offices in regard to the importance of Fort Drum or the listening session.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator




Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



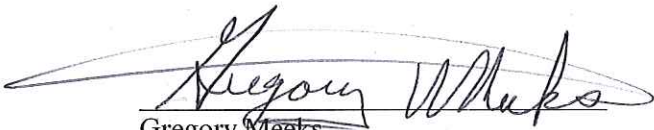
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



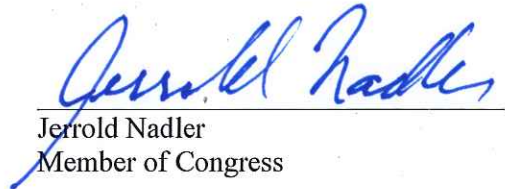
Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



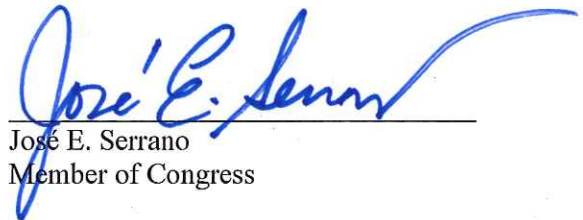
Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



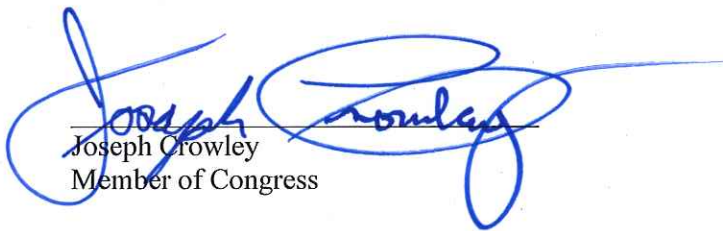
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress



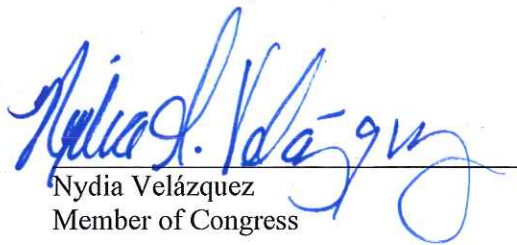
Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



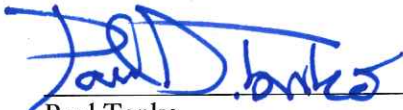
Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress



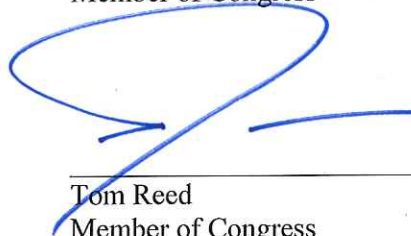
Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



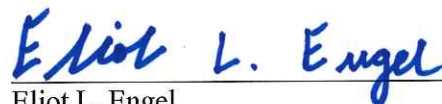
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress