Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2025

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith,

As you continue conference negotiations for the Fiscal Year 2026 *National Defense Authorization Act*, we strongly urge you to retain provisions in the final text that are critical to workload and workforce sustainment at Rock Island Arsenal, which remains an important part of our organic industrial base and national security. These provisions include:

- **Pilot program for arsenal workload sustainment.** Modeled after the *Arsenal Workload Sustainment Act*, Section 329 of S. 2296 and Section 337 of H.R. 3838 would require the Army to establish a pilot program to give contracting preference for partnerships with Army arsenals such as Rock Island, providing them with predictable workload to sustain critical skills and allowing them to compete with private industry in the manufacturing or procurement of defense products;

- **Limitation on use of funds by the Army until submittal of plan to integrate Joint Munitions Command (JMC) and Army Sustainment Command (ASC).** Section 346 of S. 2296 and Section 915 of H.R. 3838 would restrict the Army from using any funds allocated for restructuring JMC and ASC until the Army provides Congress with more information about its proposed plans, helping protect jobs at Rock Island Arsenal from unnecessary cuts;

- **Modernization of Army Arsenals.** Section 849 of S. 2296 and Section 341 of H.R. 3838 would require the Secretary of the Army to assess Army facilities such as Rock Island Arsenal and identify opportunities for expanded munitions production;

- **Advanced robotic automation for munitions manufacturing.** Section 219 of S. 2296 would require the Army to establish a program to support the maturation and expansion of robotic munitions manufacturing capabilities at government-owned, contractor-operated facilities, which would help increase production at facilities such as the Quad City Cartridge Case Facility; and

- **Military Construction Funding.** S. 2296 includes authorizations of $50 million for the construction of a new Child Development Center at Rock Island Arsenal, as well as $5 million in planning and design funds for a Forging Equipment Annex at the Rock Island Arsenal-Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center.

For more than a century, Rock Island Arsenal has kept our Armed Forces lethal, ready, and safe, with the production of arms and ammunition to tactical vehicles to medical equipment. Today, not only is Rock Island Arsenal home to the only active U.S. Army foundry, its Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center also is at the forefront of modern and advanced manufacturing. We urge you to retain these provisions in a Fiscal Year 2026 *National Defense Authorization Act* conference agreement to ensure Rock Island Arsenal and its workforce in the Quad Cities region remain a hub for manufacturing in the years to come. Thank you for your attention to our request.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress

Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress