

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Patrick Shanahan
Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Acting Secretary Shanahan,

We are writing to you concerning the Missile Defense Agency's ongoing Ballistic Missile Defense Review. With a final report pending regarding the feasibility of a third Ground-Based Midcourse Defense site, we would like to encourage your consideration of Camp James A. Garfield (formerly known as Camp Ravenna) for selection as the third Continental United States Interceptor Site (CIS) of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System. Camp Garfield has a long history of contributing to America's national security by housing many different assets and activities. The addition of the CIS to Camp Garfield would represent a new and exciting chapter not only for Camp Garfield but also for the region in which the Camp is located.

With the publishing of the Missile Defense Review on January 17th, 2019 we want to highlight the provision in Public Law 115-91 Section 1681, which states:

If consistent with the direction or recommendations of the Ballistic Missile Defense Review that commenced in 2017, not later than 60 days after the date on which the Ballistic Missile Defense Review is published, the Secretary of Defense shall—

- (1) designate the preferred location of a potential additional continental United States interceptor site;
— Public Law 115-91; Section 1681

From our reading of this law and the MDR report, we encourage you to designate the preferred location for the site and encourage you to select Camp Garfield as the location for the reasons stated below.

The Camp, and Northeast Ohio more broadly, benefit from access to a skilled workforce and numerous means of transportation. Three highways, two ports, two airports, and one railroad are all easily accessible from the Camp's location in Portage County, Ohio. These avenues will not only aid in expediting the construction of the CIS but will also be able to support increased traffic once the CIS is operational. The area's vibrant and diverse workforce stands ready to the support the construction of this site. The Garfield site can draw on a construction workforce

exceeding 61,000 Ohioans—including from the nearby areas of Youngstown, Cleveland, Akron and Canton. The accessibility to a skilled workforce will factor directly into the affordability and site constructability factors under consideration.


The region's workforce benefits from the numerous public and private colleges and universities in the area. There is an abundance of engineers and other technical professionals ready to work on projects at the Camp. Additionally, the construction and manufacturing industries have strong presences in the Northeast Ohio region, and workers from these industries are ready to contribute to the development of the CIS.

The Ohio National Guard possesses one of the most experienced forces of air defenders in the National Guard, posturing the state well for adding more defense assets through the MDA. Home to the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and two battalions of air defenders, the Ohio National Guard stands ready with the intrinsic skills to support and operate the CIS.

The positive impact that the CIS would have on Northeast Ohio's economy cannot be overstated. Construction of the CIS would create 2,300 jobs and once the site is operational it would directly employ 850 people. An additional 340 people would be employed indirectly. \$224 million in economic value would be generated during the site's construction, and \$27 million would be generated during each subsequent year of operation.

We gladly offer to work with the Missile Defense Agency to advance the CIS project at Camp Garfield. The state of Ohio has a proud history of contributing to the nation's defense and to other government projects, at sites like Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center. Locating the CIS at Camp Garfield would represent a significant contribution to this legacy. We appreciate your consideration of Camp Garfield as the preferred CIS for the East Coast Missile Defense System and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,




Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



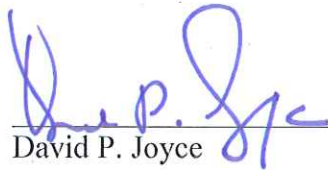
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U.S. Senator



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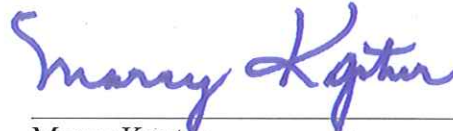
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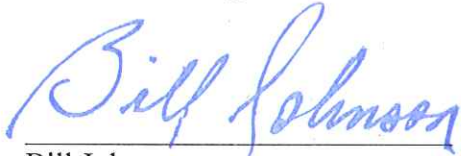
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