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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4327

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

JUDICIARY

July 7, 2015

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thornberry:

I am writing you today to request that when the House goes to conference with the Senate on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2016 you preserve the following House and Senate passed provisions that will ensure the sustainment and success of our nation's military depots.

1. **House Section 325:** Requires the Department of Defense (DoD) to review items purchased overseas when the Department has determined there is no domestic manufacturer in order to further determine if those items could be manufactured in depots or arsenals, bringing additional work to civilian employees and returning work to the USA.
2. **House Section 804:** Allows the DoD to make a single, onetime declaration that an item is commercial, but guarantees that depot core law, which exempts only certain narrowly defined commercial items from core requirements, is kept intact and not gutted by a change in the general definition and handling of commercial items.
3. **House Section 822(c)(2)(J) and Section 841(d):** Requires DoD to include a sustainment strategy, including compliance with the core and 50/50 depot statutes, in the acquisition strategic plan. Senate Section 841 requires an acquisition strategy for major weapons, including a sustainment strategy.
4. **House Section 835:** Ensures that a DoD Intellectual Property study includes sustainment requirements as part of the study and that it includes interviews with the depots and arsenals on their requirements for data rights.
5. **House Section 905(f):** Provides an exemption for WCF employees from arbitrary headquarters cuts unless those cuts comply with 10 USC 2472, which prohibits the use of any metric other than funded workload for the management of depot employees.

6. **House Section 1421:** Exempts Working Capital Fund (WCF) employees, who are paid through reimbursement from services, from non-disciplinary furloughs as long as funds are available. It prevents transfers of workload and requires Congressional notification for any furlough.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blake Farenthold". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress