# Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 7, 2013

Senator Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
SD- 122
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
SD-122
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman C.W. Bill Young
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We write to you as members of the House Depot Caucus who represent organic industrial base facilities across the country. As you know, it is these facilities that manufacture and reset our military vehicles, aircraft (both fixed wing and rotary wing), tanks, Light Armored Vehicles, tracked vehicles, small arms, torpedoes, radios, and other critical equipment. The quality of work that is performed in these facilities is unparalleled. They have kept our troops well equipped throughout twelve years at war.

We applaud you for including significant funding in support of the organic industrial base, including for depot maintenance, facilities modernization, and mobilization capacity. We urge you to fund these accounts at the highest possible level in the final FY 2014 legislation.

We also remain deeply concerned about the furloughs of Working Capital Fund employees. The government employees who manufacture and repair military items have been furloughed even though, according to our understanding of the U.S. Code, they should not have been because they are funded via the Working Capital Fund. As you know, this fund is not funded from appropriated accounts. We have made this case to the Secretary of Defense, unfortunately he and his legal team think otherwise.

Therefore, we offered an amendment to the House Defense Appropriations bill that would exclude employees whose salary is paid from the Working Capital Fund from sequester-related furloughs in FY2014. This amendment was bipartisan and passed by voice vote on the House Floor.

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When consideration begins of final legislation for FY 2014, we very respectfully encourage you to favorably consider this provision. We think this is the right thing to do for our nation, our readiness, and our constituents who valiantly continue to support the war effort.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Tom Cole
Member of Congress