

December 24, 2020

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Smith and Ranking Members Reed and Thornberry:

On behalf of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) and its members, we thank you for your unwavering support of our nation's security, its military, and the defense industrial base that provides our superior capabilities across all warfighting domains. We are writing to throw our organization's full-throated support behind the passage into law of the **William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021** to support our nation's warfighters, deter great power competitors, and invest in the maintenance and extension of our historic strategic advantages.

The NDAA is a necessity for the military and those that support it to continue advancing the nation's security and interests. Besides the support it provides to our service members and their families, it addresses a broad swath of crucial issues from cybersecurity to Defense Department reform critical to realign our policies, organizations and resourcing to the National Defense Strategy. A key example is the Pacific Deterrence Initiative focused on the increasingly belligerent actions of China and providing targeted resources and a future roadmap for strengthening our regional posture.

NDIA's member companies represent defense contractors across the country in all fifty states and territories from all sectors and sizes of the defense industrial base including the over 75% of our membership who are the small businesses that drive innovation. The passage of this annual measure into law is vital to providing these companies with as much surety as possible for them to invest in their workforce and in the technologies our warfighters require. As we approach the end of a very difficult 2020 and with the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, this surety is more important than ever; it cannot wait for another legislative cycle.

We recognize the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the legislative process and truly appreciate the very hard work by members and staff getting this bill to completion. This year's NDAA marks the 60th year in a row Congress has passed the authorization for military resources and policies critical to protecting our nation and advancing its interests. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of employees across the nation who are dedicated to supporting military operations, we thank you and urge you to take the actions necessary to override the unwarranted veto and ensure this vital piece of national security legislation becomes law.

Yours respectfully,



Herbert J. Carlisle
President and CEO



Arnold Punaro
Chairman