

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Tester and Ranking Member Shelby,

As you begin the process of developing spending priorities for the fiscal year 2023 (FY23) Defense Appropriations bill, we respectfully request an increase in funding for the armed services' Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) budget sufficient to significantly reduce the DOD maintenance backlog, meet the Department's 90% sustainment requirements funding goal, and accelerate the restoration and modernization of DOD infrastructure. This investment will improve servicemember quality of life and ensure American military installations can support the highest level of readiness.

According to the January 2022 GAO report, *Defense Infrastructure: DOD Should Better Manage Risks Posed by Deferred Facility Maintenance*,<sup>1</sup> "For fiscal year 2020, DOD reported deferred maintenance backlogs totaling \$137 billion." Additionally, GAO assessed that, "DOD does not fully account for the costs of sustaining facilities that exceed their expected lifespans. Thus, DOD likely underestimates its annual funding requirements, because nearly 30 percent of its facilities have exceeded their expected lifespans."

The same report found that, "DOD's goal is for components to fund facility sustainment at a minimum of 90 percent of annually estimated requirements, but according to DOD officials competing priorities led to budget requests below those goals." The problem is particularly acute in the United States Army, where facility sustainment funding levels from FY17-FY20 fell far short of the 90% goal each year, averaging 78.1% of sustainment funding requirements over that period.

To address this shortfall, we request the following appropriation levels for FSRM in FY23:

- Army Facilities Sustainment: \$3.2 billion, a \$200 million increase over the president's budget request.
- Army Facilities Restoration and Modernization: \$1.7 billion, a \$110 million increase over the president's budget request.

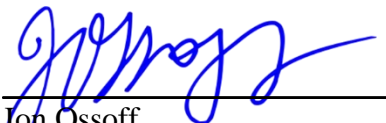
- Navy Base Support Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization: \$3.7 billion, a \$145 million increase over the president's budget request.
- Air Force Facilities Restoration and Modernization: \$4.5 billion, a \$400 million increase over the president's budget request.
- Marine Corps Base Support Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization: \$1.33 billion, a \$40 million increase over the president's budget request.
- National Guard Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization: \$1.135 billion, an \$81 million increase over the president's budget request.

During this time of historic, bipartisan, investments in American infrastructure, our Defense installations have been left out. The impact of these funding shortfalls is widespread and unacceptable. Our service members and DOD civilians deserve working and living conditions commensurate with the world's most advanced and well-funded military. Unfortunately, too many service members live in decrepit barracks facilities, drop their children off at aging child development centers, and conduct vital readiness missions in deteriorating maintenance hangars, airfields, and range facilities.

As we confront the strategic challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, ensuring the strength of our armed forces will require more than just investments in advanced weapons and technology; it calls for an urgent commitment to the people that comprise our military. Modern, safe, functional, well-maintained facilities will enable the United States to recruit, train, and retain the talent we need to meet the national security demands of our time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



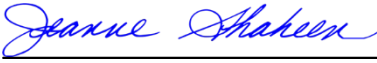
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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



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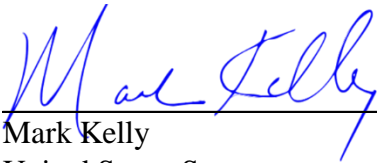
John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
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United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator




Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



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United States Senator