

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy  
Under Secretary of the Army  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Under Secretary McCarthy,

We were pleased to receive your letter announcing that Houston, Austin, and Dallas, will compete to host the Army's new Future Command Headquarters, and write in strong support of these Texas sites as the home for this new command.

We recognize the significant importance of modernizing our force to meet the challenges outlined in the President's National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy. As the Army adapts to confront these growing strategic challenges, we must work together to preserve our ability to deter aggression and promote peace through strength.

It is clear to us that the Army's Futures Command and the six primary modernization priorities represent an opportunity to shape the force of the future to confront these challenges head-on. Moreover, we believe that Texas is uniquely positioned to help the Army accomplish this mission.

In your letter, you stated your desire for this headquarters to be "located near leading academic and commercial institutions" to harness "the best talent possible in emerging technology and innovation." The growing success of Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DIUx) in Austin is an example of what our state has already achieved and highlights Texas' ability to bring a non-traditional organization into a community and succeed.

As you may know, Texas universities and research institutions continue to lead the world in Research & Development with academic expenditures reaching \$2.1 billion. Texas is the proud home to three Carnegie Foundation Tier 1 research universities: the University of Texas, Texas A&M and the University of Houston. This has fostered a culture of innovation and contributed to the sustained growth of the second largest civil workforce in the Nation, as well as the addition of over two million new jobs in the last decade, with this growth projected to continue.

Locating Army Futures Command in Texas would provide unparalleled access to the business community, given that Texas was recently named as Chief Executive Magazine's "Best State for Business" for the 13th consecutive year. With more than 50 Fortune 500 companies calling Texas home, our state would meet and exceed your expectations for this new command.

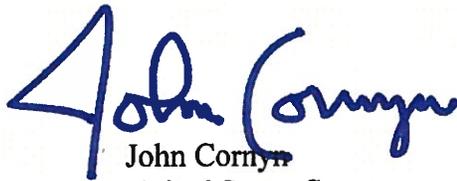
Finally, Texas is home to a total of 15 active military installations and more than 200,000 associated personnel. As evidenced by the Army's large presence across our state from Fort Hood, Fort Bliss, Red River Army Depot, the Corpus Christi Army Depot, and Fort Sam Houston at Joint Base San Antonio; the Army Futures Command and these new Soldiers would be welcomed with open arms.

We, and the entire Lone Star State, stand ready to support you in this effort.

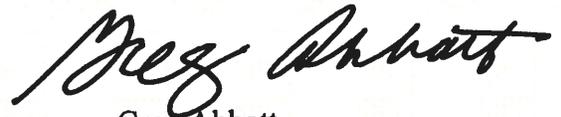
Sincerely,



Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Greg Abbott  
Governor

CC: The Honorable Mark T. Esper, Secretary of the Army  
General Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff of the Army