

DEFENSE RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

September 7, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Leader Pelosi, and Leader Schumer:

As advocates for what Secretary of Defense Mattis calls a stable funding horizon, we encourage you and your colleagues to fund the government for the full 2018 fiscal year, prevent a federal shutdown or a default, and address our significant national security readiness challenges.

Congress must act within a very short time frame and under two tight deadlines – the start of the next fiscal year, and an expired debt ceiling. Failure to address these deadlines will lead to a government shutdown, default, or both. In the last shutdown, vital programs and services were compromised and our economy lost \$24 billion, causing critical impacts. These damaging effects are set to play out again if Congress does not reach agreement to continue government funding.

We are faced with many challenges in today's world. We have been at war for 16 years. Markets are still stabilizing as they search for ways to navigate new trade relationships. Terrorists continue to confront our closest allies and attempt to expand within failed states. Our government needs to be functioning to protect our security and grow our economy. We must continue to pay our troops, government civilians and the contractors who support them. Vital weapons programs and maintenance and logistics efforts need to continue without interruption.

We strongly urge the Congress to complete FY 2018 authorization and appropriations measures to ensure consistent and uninterrupted funding. We are encouraged that Members in both parties have signaled interest in working in a bipartisan manner to accomplish these actions. We hope you and your colleagues will act swiftly to avoid any threat of government shutdown, a default, or other unnecessary delays that disrupt both industry markets and the proper functioning of the federal government.

Sincerely,



David F. Melcher
Lieutenant General, USA (Ret.)
President & CEO
Aerospace Industries Association



Herbert J. "Hawk" Carlisle
General, USAF (Ret.)
President & CEO
National Defense Industrial Association



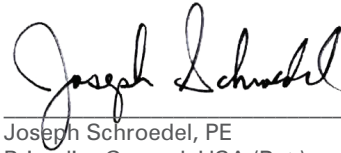
David J. Berteau
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Of the United States



Alan Kaplan
National President
Navy League of the United States



Charles H. Huettner
Executive Director
Aerospace States Association



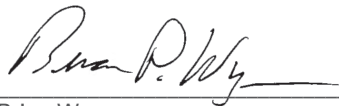
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Executive Director
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Executive Director
American Society of
Military Comptrollers



Carter F. Ham
General, US Army (Ret.)
President & CEO
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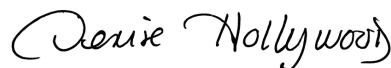
Brian Wynne
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Shelley Frost
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Bill Erickson, Captain, USN (Ret.)
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Surface Navy Association



Denise Hollywood
Vice President
Air Force Association