

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 10, 2018

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy
Under Secretary of the Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington DC 20310-0200

Dear Under Secretary McCarthy:

We write to express our strong support for the City of Philadelphia to host the new Army Futures Command. We are confident that the Philadelphia region's exceptional technology and defense industry, unparalleled academic and research institutions, and high quality of life provide the best environment in which the new Futures Command and its workforce can thrive. For these reasons, we urge you and your team to visit the Philadelphia region in the next stage of your review process to see for yourselves.

Dating back to the birth of our country, Philadelphia has been a hub for revolutionary ideas, a magnet for innovative individuals, and a pillar in our national defense. The greater metropolitan area is home to more than 100 educational and research institutions, which are training the next generation of leaders and experts in technology, advanced manufacturing, and research. These institutions are educating over 520,000 students in post-secondary programs and granting more than 90,000 degrees annually. Increasingly, these are STEM-related degrees, with a 48 percent growth specifically in computer and information science degrees since 2010. Pennsylvania ranks among the top four states producing STEM graduates and is in the top ten states for STEM job leaders in the United States.

The Philadelphia area is home to the world's largest hackathon, and at universities across the region, there are a range of co-working, lab, and office spaces, including a drone cage. Many of our area's institutions of higher education already work closely with Department of Defense customers, driving innovation and research to meet today's challenges and tomorrow's threats. From the life sciences to robotics to advanced manufacturing, the Philadelphia area's technology industry is robust and supported by a thriving ecosystem of entrepreneurs, economic development partners, investors, and collaborative academic partnerships.

Philadelphia's geographic location is ideal for an organization like Futures Command. Easy access to Washington, DC via road, rail, and air would allow your leadership and workforce to engage regularly and in person with DOD senior leaders, policymakers, and industry experts. We also benefit from proximity to Army intellectual and research centers like Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Army War College. Our international airport provides direct flights to other technology and research hubs across the United States and Europe.

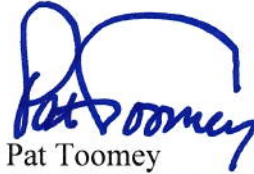
We understand that the City of Philadelphia has developed a list of site options that would meet the Army's needs for the new Command. All of these options would afford the Futures Command workforce access to our region's affordable cost of living and vibrant athletic, cultural and culinary scene. The state forests and heritage areas, national historical sites, beaches, and many other offerings within an easy drive provide for diverse, dynamic, and livable communities.

Our area has a proud tradition of support for our military and their families. We believe our community is ideally situated to host Army Futures Command, and we look forward to showing your team all our region has to offer. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

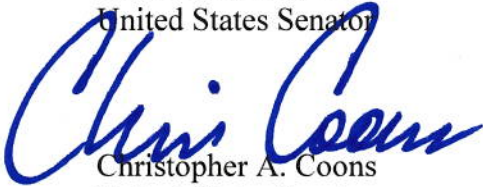
Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Pat Toomey
United States Senator



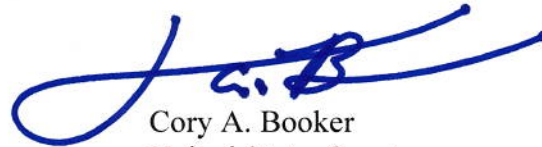
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



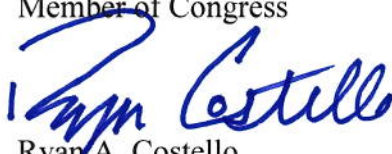
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress