

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Patrick M. Shanahan
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Shanahan,

We are deeply concerned by reports that funding provided in fiscal year (FY) 2019 for two important military construction projects at Luke Air Force Base (AFB) in our state may be diverted to fund the border wall as outlined by the President's recent emergency declaration.

Luke AFB is home to the largest fighter wing in the U.S. Air Force and the only active-duty F-16/F-35 training base in the world. The administration clearly recognized the need for two critical projects at Luke AFB, the F-35A Squad Ops #6 and the Aircraft Maintenance Facility (AMU) totaling \$40 million, by including them in its FY2019 budget request. Both projects were included in the FY 2019 Military Construction Appropriations bill passed by Congress last year.

In the FY 2019 budget request, the administration noted the F-35A Squad Ops #6 was necessary due to the poor conditions of the existing facilities as well as the lack of adequate secure space for pilot briefings and space for the fifth generation of fighter aircraft. Without this project, the base will not be ready to receive a sixth squadron of F-35As expected in June 2021. The budget request went on to further note that "work-arounds would not allow the squadron to train together and would significantly impact the training mission required to support the F-35A program at the Pilot Training Center."

Similarly, the FY 2019 budget request noted the poor conditions of the base's Aircraft Maintenance (AMU) Facility and the lack of space to house an F-35A AMU and associated functions, noting the current facility is outdated and inadequate to conduct maintenance operations for the mission. Without this project, the maintenance, operations and personnel will not be ready to receive F-35 aircraft in March 2021.

Our dedicated military servicemembers at Luke AFB should not be forced to pay the price of this emergency declaration by having much needed military construction funds the administration requested and Congress approved diverted to activities completely unrelated to Luke AFB and its

missions. It is imperative the administration maintain funds for these two projects to make sure the base can effectively to execute its missions. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



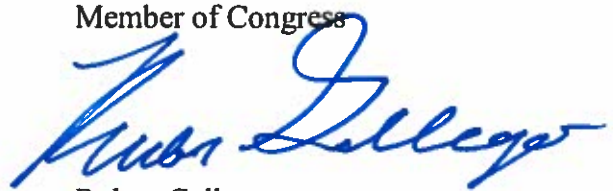
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress