

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Jon Tester
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair, Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
H-405, The Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
H-405, The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Department of Defense authorization and appropriations bills, we urge your support of budgetary items that invest in the Marine Corps Force Design 2030 initiative. The 2018 National Defense Strategy (NDS) redirected the Department of Defense's focus from countering violent extremists to peer-level strategic competition, particularly with China. The 2018 NDS further emphasized the Indo-Pacific as a particular theater of interest, and the current administration's guidance also prioritizes China as our number one pacing challenge.

Such a profound shift in missions, from sustained land operations to maritime campaigns and from non-state actors to peer competitors, requires new capabilities for organizing, training, equipping, and posturing the force to meet our nation's desired strategic ends. To align the force with our national strategy, Force Design 2030 is the Marine Corps' initiative to deter potential adversaries and effectively fight and win in a future conflict. Congress should fully support this effort and commend the Marine Corps for making difficult investment and divestment decisions of what to do and, more importantly, what not to do, in order to ensure U.S. advantage in strategic competition.

Force Design 2030 realigns priorities toward investments in new technologies, formations, and capabilities better suited for the Marine Corps' mission and expeditionary nature. In particular, investments are directed towards increasing lethality, mobility, and survivability to maintain a competitive advantage vis-à-vis our declared pacing threat, China. Importantly, the Marine Corps will retain the global crisis response capabilities that the Nation has come to rely on, such as evacuating Americans or de-escalating a crisis before it becomes a conflict.

Furthermore, funds to procure Force Design 2030 capabilities come from savings generated from divestments in legacy programs or surge capacity. Through disciplined divestments and other reform initiatives, the Marine Corps has thus far saved \$15.8 billion across the Future Years Defense Program. This \$15.8 billion has been reinvested in the platforms that will be decisive in future conflicts.

Key Marine Corps divestments by 2030:

- Reduction of approximately 12,000 Marines,
- Reduction of three infantry battalions,
- Reduction of 14 cannon artillery batteries,
- Divest from all active and reserve component armor battalions,
- Reduction of five aviation squadrons (CH-53 and H-1).

Key Marine Corps investments now and in the future:

- Increase in infantry battalion capabilities in UAS for enhanced ISR and loitering munitions,
- Increase of 17 mid-range and long-range missile batteries,
- Increase of three Light Armored Reconnaissance companies,
- Increase of one active KC-130J squadron,
- Transition to modern aviation programs, such as F-35, CH-53K, and Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar (G/ATOR).

Force Design 2030 was well developed with informed consideration of future warfare trends and our declared pacing threat. Force Design 2030 does not adhere to the last twenty years of conflict or emotional attachments to historic platforms to derive the ways and means in which the Marine Corps will operate moving forward. In any future conflict with a peer adversary or rogue actor, the United States will fight an enemy with modern fires, aviation, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and targeting capabilities. By focusing on small, low signature, and self-reliant formations and capabilities, Force Design 2030 improves the Marine Corps' ability to fight and win in a contested environment.

Thank you for your continued support of Marine Corps Force Design 2030 and for your leadership on these important issues.

Warmest Regards,


Joe Manchin III
United States Senator


M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator


Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator


Tom Cotton
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


Thom Tillis
United States Senator



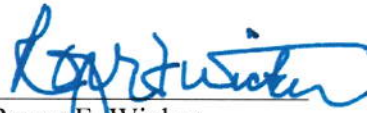
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator




Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Richard Larsen
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress