

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FINANCE
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

June 19, 2013

The Honorable Frank Kendall
Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics)
3010 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC, 20301-3010

Dear Secretary Kendall:

I am writing to urge your consideration to qualify Lima, Ohio for assistance through the Office of Economic Adjustment Defense Industry Adjustment Program.

As you are aware, Lima is home to the Government-Owned, Contractor-Operated Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (JSMC). Decisions regarding several Major Defense Acquisition Programs have had a direct impact on JSMC including the reduction in production of M1 series Abrams tanks, the cancellation of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle and reductions in other ground vehicle programs. This reduced demand has forced a significant reduction in the workforce at this unique facility.

As currently proposed, the Army expects to begin ramping back up Abrams production in 2019 and other combat vehicle programs may also rely on the skilled workforce and capabilities at Lima in the future. As we work to mitigate the tremendous risk associated with the Army's plan to rely on Foreign Military Sales to sustain the Abrams industrial base, the facility and community risks losing critical skills that will be required in a only a few years and will likely be needed for decades to come.

To address recent workforce reductions and the potential for additional reductions, we must work with the community to ensure sufficient, key skill sets are available when the industrial base is called upon again to meet increased demand for this highly technical production capability. As such, I urge you to evaluate the city of Lima and Allen County for qualification to receive Department of Defense assistance through the Defense Industry Adjustment Program under the authority of Military Base Reuse Studies and Community Planning Assistance, 10 U.S.C. 2391.

I would expect that if qualified subsequent assistance would help the Defense Department and the community surrounding JSMC ensure the industrial base is ready to meet future requirements in a timely and cost-effective manner.

I appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman