

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 15, 2018

The Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper  
Secretary of the United States Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Esper,

As Members of Congress representing parts of Los Angeles County, we support your interest to stand up Army Futures Command in the City of Los Angeles. Unparalleled in its talent, research and innovation, LA is ready to support the Command's efforts to prepare our soldiers for tomorrow's battlefield.

Ranked as one of the top tech hubs in the country, LA would provide Futures Command with the perfect access to technology, talent, and academia. Each year, the region's top-tier institutions such as UCLA, USC and CalTech graduate the most engineers in the country, and obtain millions in research funding. "Silicon Beach," located in the western part of the city, is home to nearly 500 start-ups and major tech companies. From 2013 through 2017, venture capitalist firms invested a total of \$21.6 billion in the region. This same entrepreneurial and innovative spirit thrives in other industries in the area, such as biotech, medicine, and entertainment. Futures Command could leverage these diverse perspectives to find innovative breakthroughs.

Unlike other cities, LA also has a long history of being the center of defense innovation. In 1969, researchers sent the first email from UCLA to colleagues at Stanford-- their feat only made possible through the U.S. Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency Network. Today, the same collaborative spirit continues to contribute to our national security interests. Home to nearly 50,000 aerospace and defense employees, LA manufactures products such as parts to the F-35 stealth fighters and Gray Eagle drones. Alongside adding to our military's capabilities, the region remains a place of cutting-edge defense research and home to three legacy Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers: Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Aerospace Corp, and RAND. Initiatives like the Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships for Southern California have built successful partnerships among these multiple groups, resulting in over 5,000 new jobs and \$1 billion in investment to the sector since 2014. Given that Futures Command will be the Army's most significant organizational development since 1973, having these existing relationships will be crucial for success.

LA has also extended innovation into its citizens' everyday lives. Named the top digital city two years in a row, the city has teamed with local companies to improve the quality of life for its residents. Last year, the city worked with Esri to help pool urban map data and launch three applications to develop better and new infrastructure. Since then, the city has succeeded in creating better public transit and expanding its transportation system. Further, with an ambitious

\$15 billion capital improvement project to LAX, over \$2 billion being invested into the port, LA will have the capacity and capability to accommodate Futures Command's 500 personnel. They and their families would not only enjoy the city's natural parks and resources, cultural institutions and incredible weather, but also live in a city that appreciates the essence of the Command's mission.

As Army narrows its choices in the coming week, it is our sincere hope that you will strongly consider the City of Los Angeles. With its robust talent pool, available infrastructure, and history of defense innovation, the City of Los Angeles would support the Army's efforts to prepare its soldiers for the future of combat.

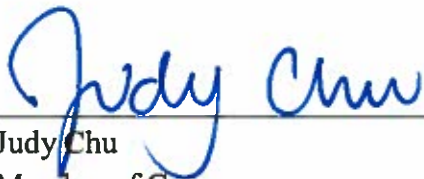
Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Ed Royce  
Member of Congress



Steve Knight  
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress