May 3, 2021

General Daniel R. Hokanson  
Chief, National Guard Bureau  
111 South George Mason Drive  
Arlington, VA 22204-1373

Dear General Hokanson:

We are writing to encourage your favorable consideration of the Illinois Army National Guard’s (ILARNG) request for Military Construction (MILCON) funding for the General Jones Armory, Project Number 172102 with an estimated cost share of $75 million Federal and a State Share of $25 million. The project is competing during this year’s Unfunded Requirements (UFR) process. This facility sits in the heart of Illinois’ First Congressional District on the South Side of Chicago and once served as a vibrant community center. Your support for this project ensures the General Jones Armory continues to serve the Soldiers of the ILARNG and local citizens of this diverse area, providing opportunity for long-term growth.

This facility was built in 1931 and is largely unchanged since that time. It is one of the largest readiness centers in the country with a rich history serving our State and Nation. Today the facility is underutilized due to a significant need for renovation and modernization, which is required for the basing of modern units and equipment. The ILARNG has engaged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who are developing a site master plan to facilitate an efficient renovation should this project be funded. Upon updating this facility, the ILARNG will relocate multiple units from other locations resulting in hundreds more drilling Soldiers at the General Jones Armory. This project will allow the divestiture of other large readiness centers that are not candidates for renovation. Maintaining an active presence in Chicago and providing a clean, safe, and functional facility to capitalize on the recruiting market found on the South Side of Chicago is critical to maintaining fully manned and diverse units in the Illinois Army National Guard. This MILCON project is critical to the Illinois National Guard Strategic Vision.

We support our Illinois National Guard and respectfully request that NGB provide full and fair consideration for the General Jones Armory renovation construction project during the national competition for MILCON funding. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact any of our staffs.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator