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GOVERNOR OF OHIO

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April 9, 2019

The Honorable Patrick Shanahan
Acting Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Shanahan,

I encourage you to designate Camp James A. Garfield as the third Continental United States Interceptor Site (CIS), and to announce this decision as early as you feel able. Camp Garfield is the ideal site. It is strategically located within most of the major population centers of the United States, meets or exceeds all the criteria that we are aware of, and offers the highly-skilled, highly-educated workforce necessary to build and operate this strategic installation.

The synergies that Ohio offers are immense. Camp Garfield and Northeast Ohio also constitute a location unsurpassed for the missile defense system from a logistical perspective, with access to a strong transportation system including highways, ports and rail, as well as a transportation corridor established for support of NASA Plum Brook and ideally suited for missile interceptor transport. Further, Youngstown Air Reserve Station is critically positioned to provide immediate and concentrated support in and out of Camp Garfield. In addition, the Ohio National Guard possesses one of the most experienced force of air defenders in the Nation, regularly entrusted with protection of the National Capitol Region. This new interceptor mission can be confidently placed in their experienced hands.

The powerful aeronautical research at the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center and surrounding universities, the Air Force Research Laboratory, and the Northeast Ohio workforce are eager and well-positioned to support the 2000-plus jobs. The economic impact can be immense for a region that was devastated by closure of the Lordstown auto plant. We in Ohio want to work, to contribute, and to lend value to our National Defense. I can think of no better way to accomplish those goals than selection of Camp Garfield as the east coast missile interceptor site.

I join my voice to our Congressional Delegation, who have also communicated a similar message to you. I am aware that you are under a congressionally-mandated decision and announcement timeline. I encourage you to call upon me at any time to discuss my goals in support of your efforts, and Ohio's well-established capabilities in support of our nation's defense.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine
Governor