



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Daniel P. Driscoll
Secretary of Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Driscoll:

I have strong concerns with the recent news that Rock Island Arsenal could face workforce reductions. As I mentioned to you in 2025, the United States needs strong support for the continued investment in Rock Island Arsenal and have serious concerns with proposed changes to the workforce. Rock Island Arsenal is a key component in our national defense and is a key pillar of the Quad Cities region. You may also recall that Department of Defense Appropriations Chairman Ken Calvert spoke on the House floor about the commitment to protect the workforce.

At a time of global conflict, Rock Island Arsenal has a preeminent position within the United States' defense infrastructure. As the primary command center for the Army Sustainment Command, Army Contracting Command, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Arsenal serves as a critical nexus for global procurement and logistics. Its role as a premier weapons manufacturing facility has become increasingly vital as the nation seeks to replenish depleted armament reserves. Furthermore, RIA's leadership in advanced manufacturing—specifically in 3D printing—provides essential, agile support to our forward-deployed forces. Any reduction in force or operational capacity would yield a significant net negative to our national security posture and overall military resilience.

Beyond its military contributions, Rock Island Arsenal is an indispensable economic driver for the Quad Cities region, contributing approximately \$1.2 billion annually to the local economy. The facility employs over 5,000 personnel, roughly half of whom reside in Iowa. A substantial portion of this workforce consists of veterans who continue to serve the nation in a civilian capacity. For generations, the Arsenal has served as the lifeblood of our community, fostering a legacy of service and economic stability that remains vital to the region's prosperity.

As the representative for southeast Iowa and a 24-year Army veteran, it is imperative I relay this issue to the highest echelons of the U.S. Army. The security, strength, and stability facilitated by Rock Island Arsenal are fundamental to our national interests. We cannot workforce reductions at the Joint Munitions Command (JMC) and the Army Sustainment Command (ASC), I strongly urge you to account for the Arsenal's indispensable contributions to our national defense and its vital role in the Iowa economy.

Moving forward, I remain committed to leading legislative efforts within the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and Appropriations process to further strengthen the Arsenal's capabilities. I look forward to our continued partnership in enhancing military readiness and advocating for the well-being of America's service members and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mariannette Miller-Meeks".

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress