

June 17, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of War
U.S. Department of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

The undersigned companies and industry associations write to express our strong support for the immediate implementation of Section 832(b) of the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Congress enacted this provision to improve military readiness, increase competition, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, and deliver meaningful savings to taxpayers through the efficient use of FAA-approved parts and repairs for commercially derived aircraft.

As organizations that support the defense industrial base and the sustainment of military aviation fleets, we believe prompt implementation of this provision is essential to achieving the objectives Congress established in law. Unfortunately, the Department has now passed the statutory implementation deadline of June 1, 2026, without completing the actions necessary to fully execute the provision.

Congress's intent in enacting Section 832(b) was clear. The provision builds upon prior bipartisan efforts to enable the Department to leverage the Federal Aviation Administration's well-established certification framework for the military's commercially derived aircraft and their components. By recognizing FAA-approved parts and repairs without subjecting them to duplicative review processes, the Department can increase availability of qualified products and services, expand competition among suppliers, accelerate maintenance and sustainment activities, and reduce costs borne by taxpayers.

Over the course of congressional consideration and subsequent oversight discussions, industry stakeholders have repeatedly emphasized that FAA-approved parts and repairs have a long and successful record of safe operation within both commercial and government aviation applications. We are not aware of evidence demonstrating that the additional layers of review currently imposed by the Department have produced measurable safety or performance benefits sufficient to justify the delays, costs, and barriers they create. At the same time, the continued lack of implementation undermines the very efficiencies Congress directed the Department to achieve.

We recognize that implementing these reforms across a large and complex organization presents challenges. For that reason, we write not only to urge immediate action but also to offer our assistance. The undersigned organizations collectively possess decades of experience with FAA certification, military sustainment, commercial aviation maintenance, parts manufacturing approval processes, supply chain management, and defense acquisition policy. We stand ready to

meet with representatives of the Office of the Secretary of War, the Defense Logistics Agency, and the military departments to provide technical expertise, operational perspectives, and constructive feedback that may assist the Department in completing implementation.

As implementation proceeds, we respectfully urge the Department to ensure that any guidance, regulations, policy memoranda, or acquisition procedures faithfully reflect both the plain language and the congressional intent underlying Section 832(b). The efficiencies directed by Congress can only be realized if FAA-approved parts and repairs are accepted consistent with the standards established in statute and are not subjected to additional requirements that effectively recreate the barriers Congress sought to remove.

Under your leadership and the leadership of President Trump, the Pentagon is attempting to be more efficient and taxpayer-friendly. This provision is aligned with those goals and simultaneously improves readiness and strengthens the defense industrial base. We respectfully request that the Department prioritize completion of all actions necessary to implement Section 832(b) without further delay.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and welcome the opportunity to engage with Department officials and the military departments in the near future to support successful implementation.

Respectfully,

Signed by:

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Cc:

Daniel Driscoll, Secretary of the Army
Troy Meink, Secretary of the Air Force
Hung Cao, Acting Secretary of the Navy