

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2026

The Honorable Peter B. Hegseth
Secretary of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Daniel Driscoll
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
20310-0101

Dear Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Driscoll,

We write to express our serious concern regarding reports that elements within the Army are developing proposals that could ultimately relocate the Basic Combat Training (BCT) mission away from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, through a series of incremental personnel and mission transfers without the knowledge or consent of either of your offices, or the proper congressional oversight.

First, we want to commend the Army for its remarkable progress in restoring public confidence, exceeding recruiting goals, and strengthening the force. We fully support efforts to modernize the Army, improve training, and ensure our military remains the most capable fighting force in the world. Innovation and efficiency are essential to maintaining our military advantage.

However, efforts must go through the proper vetting channels in the Secretary of War's Office, the Secretary of the Army, and Congressional oversight.

We understand that no final decision has been made regarding the future of BCT at Fort Leonard Wood or any other installation. We also understand that the Army Transformation and Training Command (T2COM) has been directed to assess Army force generation and training missions across the enterprise. While reviewing force structure and training missions is appropriate, any proposal that would fundamentally alter the Army's BCT footprint deserves careful analysis and full engagement with Congress.

The proposal under consideration could accomplish significant realignment through a series of personnel movements of fewer than 1,000 soldiers at a time. While each individual move may appear administrative in nature, the cumulative effect would be the relocation of an entire mission without the transparency, oversight, and congressional engagement traditionally associated with changes of this magnitude.

We are interested in understanding the T2COM's analysis supporting any such proposal, including the projected costs, readiness implications, military construction requirements, impacts on recruiting and training capacity, and effects on military families and surrounding communities. Fort Leonard Wood represents decades of taxpayer investment in world-class training facilities and serves as the Army's premier installation for engineers, military police, and

chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear training. Any proposal to reduce its role as BCT installation would have significant operational and fiscal consequences.

We are also concerned that Congress has not received any formal notification regarding a proposal of this magnitude. Likewise, we are unaware of any analysis addressing the statutory requirements under Title 10 related to installation realignments, military construction needs, or the socioeconomic impacts such a move would have on Missouri communities and the broader defense industrial and military support network.

From our perspective, pursuing a piecemeal relocation of BCT risks creating a de facto Base Realignment and Closure process without the transparency, statutory review, or congressional authorization that has historically accompanied decisions of this significance. That would set a troubling precedent for every Army installation across the country.

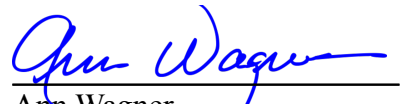
Missouri has long stood shoulder to shoulder with our nation's Armed Forces. Fort Leonard Wood is one of the Army's premier training installations and a nationally recognized center of excellence that plays an indispensable role in preparing America's soldiers. Our delegation remains committed to ensuring the Army has the resources, infrastructure, and flexibility necessary to deter our adversaries and win future conflicts. We look forward to working with you to strengthen our military while ensuring major decisions affecting force structure and installation missions are made through a transparent, deliberate, and lawful process.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and request a briefing on the status of any analysis or proposals regarding the future of Basic Combat Training missions.

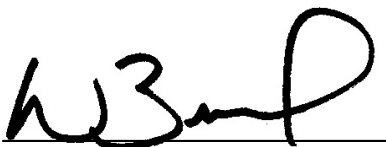
Sincerely,



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



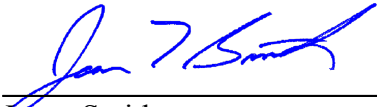
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Robert F. Onder, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



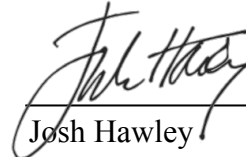
Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Eric Burlison
Member of Congress



Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator