

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 13, 2015

Lieutenant General Stanley E. Clarke III
Director, Air National Guard
1000 Air Force Pentagon, 5C1052
Washington, D.C. 20330-1000

Admiral Michael S. Rogers, US Navy
Commander, U.S. Cyber Command
9800 Savage Road
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755

Dear Lieutenant General Clarke and Admiral Rogers,

As the process to determine the location of the Air National Guard's Cyber Operations Squadrons is ongoing, we join together to express our strong support for the establishment of a squadron in New York. We commend the Air National Guard on its critical and comprehensive efforts to respond to the growing cyber threats our country faces and fully support its decision to expand its role in cyberspace. Not only is New York our country's financial hub and number one terror target, but it is also home to significant cyber security talent both in the military and in civilian domains.

At both the federal and state levels, our country faces rapidly evolving cyber threats. Guard personnel are uniquely placed to effectively respond to an ever-shifting multi-level threat environment through the integration of their private sector expertise with the unparalleled training they receive as cyber warriors in the Air National Guard. New York's Air National Guard is especially well placed to fulfill this mission. The New York Air National Guard is the largest Air Guard in the country, with five Wings distributed across the State and the Eastern Air Defense Sector Air Force Unit. These organizations presently maintain robust information assurance capabilities with increased growth capacity for cyber development by leveraging civilian cyber skills.

Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the New York Air National Guard has played an increasingly vital role in our country's security. For example, the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base has demonstrated the Guard's capacity to make use of cutting edge technological advancements in support of America's active forces. Today, the 174th operates the MQ-9 Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft and trains personnel from across active military branches in drone maintenance. A range of command and communications capabilities are also offered by the 106th Air Rescue Wing, based at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base on the east end of Long Island, NY, which continues to deploy worldwide to provide global combat mission support to U.S. and allied forces. Finally, the Eastern Air Defense Sector provides the critical air defense picture east of the Mississippi River while partnering with science and technology teams from the Air Force Research Laboratory co-located in the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome, New York.

As the battlefield in our country's defense expands further into the cyber domain, the brave men and women of the New York Air National Guard are eager to help respond to these new challenges as well. The New York Air National Guard has existing infrastructure on which to expand its foundation in cyber security. New York currently offers two sensitive compartmented information facilities (SCIFs) that would be accessible to the Guard, one at the State Headquarters in Latham and another at the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate in Rome (Rome Lab), which is in close proximity to several premier Cyber Centers of Excellence. Additionally, a Guard-accessible SCIF is under construction at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS), and is scheduled to be completed in 2016.

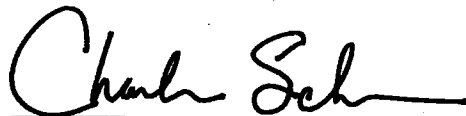
Moreover, New York currently boasts four bachelor's degree programs throughout the state that are certified as National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance and Cyber Defense, which is more than any other state. These educational institutions will cultivate highly skilled cyber talent within New York and augment the State's already large number of qualified communications and cyber soldiers with significant civilian information assurance backgrounds. The State's strong academic infrastructure and resident civilian workforce will allow the New York Air National Guard to maintain its strong record of consistently recruiting and retaining above authorized personnel levels if selected while taking a greater role in performing cyber mission sets.

The addition of an Air National Guard Cyber Operations Squadron would enable New York's Guard to continue pushing the boundaries of advanced technology in defense of assets both within New York and around the country. We understand that during the Air National Guard Cyber Operations Squadron selection process you must consider several candidates. However, we are hopeful that upon looking closely at the success of the Air National Guard in New York, the critical cyber challenges that are likely to confront New York and the opportunity available for growth within the state, you will strongly consider New York for an Air National Guard Cyber Operation Squadron.

Sincerely,



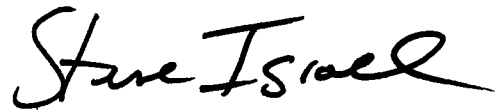
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



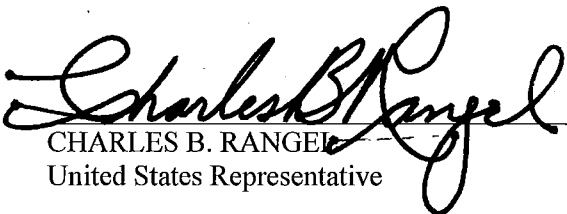
CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator




RICHARD L. HANNA
United States Representative



STEVE ISRAEL
United States Representative



CHARLES B. RANGEL
United States Representative



PAUL D. TONKO
United States Representative



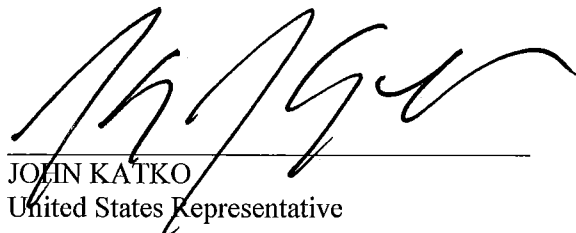
GREGORY W. MEEKS
United States Representative



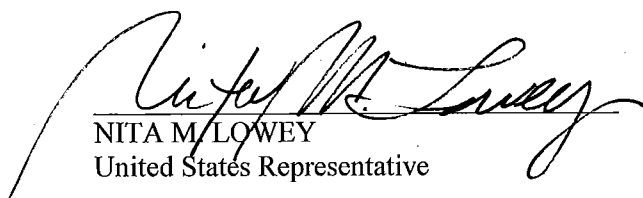
CHRIS GIBSON
United States Representative



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
United States Representative

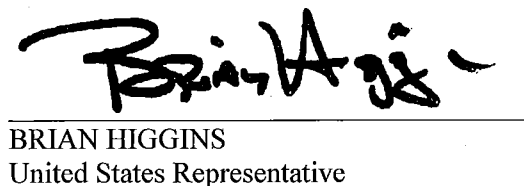


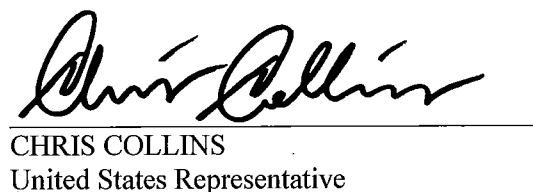
JOHN KATKO
United States Representative

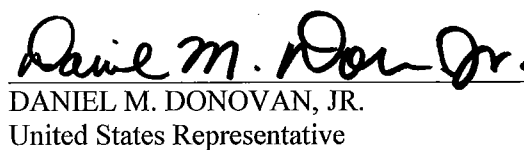

NITA M. LOWEY
United States Representative

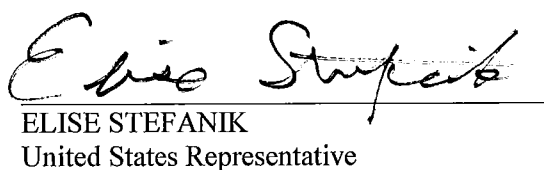

KATHLEEN M. RICE
United States Representative

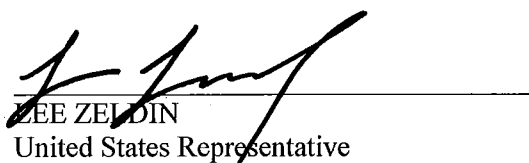

GRACE MENG
United States Representative


BRIAN HIGGINS
United States Representative

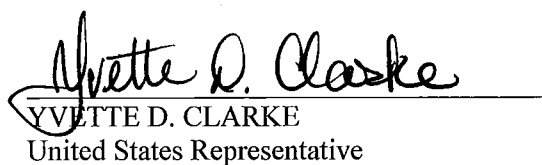

CHRIS COLLINS
United States Representative

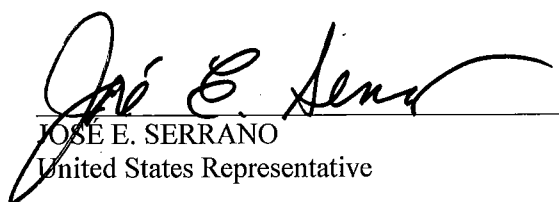

DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.
United States Representative

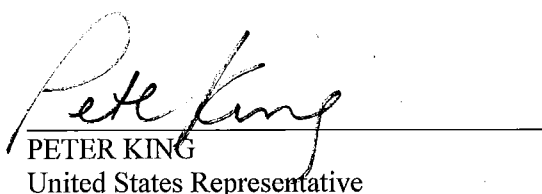

ELISE STEFANIK
United States Representative

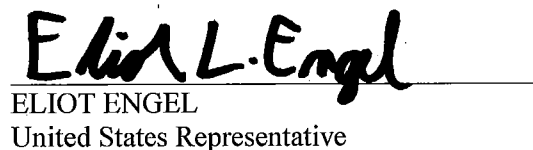

LEE ZELDIN
United States Representative

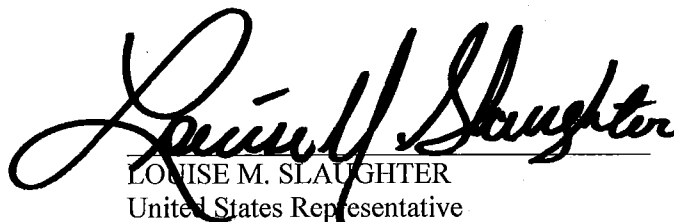

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
United States Representative

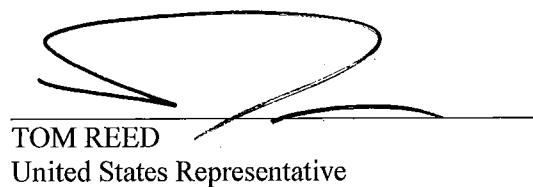

YVETTE D. CLARKE
United States Representative

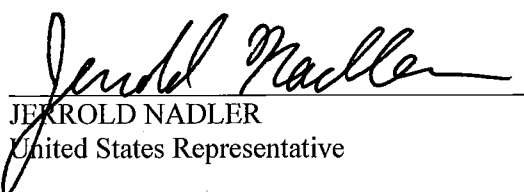

JOSE E. SERRANO
United States Representative

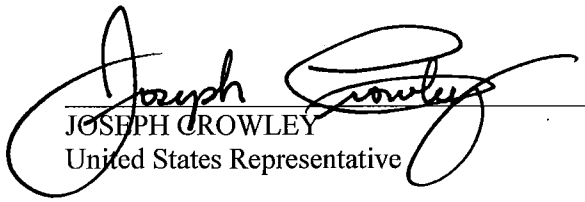

PETER KING
United States Representative


ELIOT ENGEL
United States Representative


LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
United States Representative


TOM REED
United States Representative

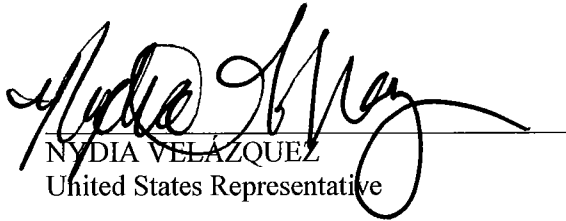

JERROLD NADLER
United States Representative



JOSEPH CROWLEY
United States Representative



HAKEEM JEFFRIES
United States Representative



NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ
United States Representative