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25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT
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July 9, 2015

General Thurman and Members of the Committee:

As a Member of Congress whose district includes Fort Hood, I have grown to truly understand and appreciate "The Great Place" and the U.S. Army as a whole. I can tell you that Fort Hood is a treasure of Texas, but it is also the gold standard for the Army, the Department of Defense and our nation's overall national security posture. From its state of the art training facilities to its experienced leadership and world renowned reputation, Fort Hood is the epitome of 21st century preparedness for the 21st century soldier. Fort Hood is cost effective.

Because most of Fort Hood's soldiers live off base, they get their everyday services from their local communities in central Texas. The tremendous capabilities of Killeen and the surrounding areas allow for a symbiotic relationship with the base. This is important because after all, you, the National Commission on the Future of the Army, are tasked with examining and recommending force structure as it relates to resources available.

If sequestration takes effect in October as planned, the U.S. Army will have to cut 30,000 soldiers in addition to the 40,000 soldiers that will be removed from ranks over the next two years. At this level the Army will not be able to commit to current deployments, let alone successfully take on new challenges. This is where you are tasked with assessing risks. I do not need to remind you, the NCFR, that the risks the United States are facing abroad are greater than anything we have seen perhaps since World War II. With the expansion of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, the instability of governments in the Middle East, and an aggressive Russia and China, there is clearly a new world order taking place, and I ask you keep that in mind.

I would like to express my gratitude to Fort Hood, the Department of the Army, our soldiers and their families and fellow Texans. And I would like to thank you for your time. God bless our troops, God bless the Great Place and God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Williams".

Roger Williams
Member of Congress