



National Commission on the Future of the Army
2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

October 2, 2015

The Honorable Steve Womack
1119 LHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Womack:

I am writing in response to your letter of 30 September regarding the work of the National Commission on the Future of the Army. I was both surprised and disappointed to see you have concerns about the “conduct of the Commission” and are “troubled about the direction things appear to be heading,” specifically, that the “scope and breadth of the Commission’s work is narrower than Congress directed.” Frankly, I am at a loss to understand the basis of these allegations. Each of the eight Commissioners and our dedicated full-time staff have approached our task with the utmost seriousness. We have, with what I believe is demonstrable good faith, sought to be comprehensive, inclusive, and unbiased in our work. I am concerned that you feel differently.

Since this Commission is required to comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, all our meetings, engagements, site visits, and deliberations not involving classified matters are open for public review. Records of the Commission’s activities are available on our public website (www.ncfa.ncr.gov) and I would encourage you to take a look at all we have done to date. If after reviewing this publicly available information you still have concerns with the conduct of the Commission, I would welcome specific points of criticism.

Our goal is to produce a final report meeting the requirements set out in the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act and backed up by solid data. We are on track to complete our report by 1 February 2016. The Commission has not yet made *any* final decisions regarding our findings and recommendations, and I would caution against trusting reports suggesting otherwise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carter F. Ham".

Carter F. Ham
General, U.S. Army Retired
Chairman