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Defense
Enhancement
Coalition

April 23, 2021

Congressman Chris Smith
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Congressman Smith,

The Defense Enhancement Coalition (DEC), an organization comprised of a union of community leaders and retired military leaders with the mission of strengthening Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst (JBMDL) as it moves into the future, enthusiastically supports the request for funding to an overpass on CR 539 in Ocean County New Jersey.

Route 539, which bisects the Joint Base from north to south in Ocean County is a major artery for shore traffic, especially in warmer weather and on weekends when many reserve component units train at JBMDL. It is therefore difficult and dangerous for units to cross the roadway to fully access the portion of the installation which lies east of the 539 roadway, thus constraining the full use of the installations training areas. This is especially true for long convoys of slow-moving military vehicles.

One of the virtues of the Joint Base is that it permits the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps to have open access to additional training areas. This project will greatly enhance the military value of JBMDL by providing open and safe access to lands that are already part of the JBMDL.

This project is not only supported by the DEC, but also the State and Ocean County Commissioners and local community leaders.

Sincerely,

Jim Saxton
Member of Congress 1984-2009
Chairman, Defense Enhancement Coalition

Michael Warner

Executive Director, Defense Enhancement Coalition



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