

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 26, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write as the Maryland Congressional Delegation in strong support of the March 24, 2020, request from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan regarding the Maryland National Guard.

We strongly support this request for the full use and force of the Maryland National Guard, under 32 U.S.C. 502 (f) for up to 180 days. We request you direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse the Department of Defense (DOD) with federal disaster funds while National Guard forces are employed in a federally-funded 32 U.S.C. 502(f) status during this complex domestic emergency.

The Maryland National Guard forms a crucial part of the State's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Guard will perform humanitarian missions across the state, such as helping mobile screening facilities, distributing food and medical supplies, ensuring resilience of supply lines, disinfecting public spaces, and supporting public safety when required. It is appropriate that FEMA fully reimburse DOD for these and related costs.

Your designation will allow Maryland National Guard members to receive full military pay and allowances, medical coverage under Tri-Care Reserve Select and Line of Duty coverage, and Reserve Military Retirement System benefits. During this national emergency, the federal government must bring all its resources to bear to combat COVID-19, and must offer the maximum possible protections and benefits to those putting themselves in harm's way to keep Marylanders safe.

Maryland continues to play a unique and critical role in the continuity of government of the United States as part of the National Capitol Region (NCR), given the many federal employees who work, live, and commute at federal agencies and facilities in Maryland and surrounding jurisdictions. The federal designation in this case would help preserve the continuity of government by protecting the health of all Marylanders, and give our dedicated and hardworking citizens soldiers of the Maryland National Guard the full support of the federal government.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. We request an immediate response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

/s/ C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

/s/ John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

/s/ Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ David Trone
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Mark Esper, Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Honorable MaryAnn E. Tierney, Regional Administrator for FEMA Region III

The Honorable Joseph L. Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau