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AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

February 13, 2009

General Ann E. Dunwoody  
Commanding General  
U.S. Army Materiel Command  
9301 Chapek Rd  
Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060-5527

Dear General Dunwoody:

First, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on becoming the first female four-star general.

As you know, the Rock Island Arsenal is the largest government-owned weapons manufacturing arsenal in the western world, and has the distinction of being the only remaining Army foundry and metal manufacturing facility. It employs over 6,400 military, civilian and contractor personnel and provides an annual economic impact of \$1 billion to the Quad Cities region.

Since the start of the Iraq War and the conflict in Afghanistan, RIA has seen a dramatic increase in production. The Army has utilized the Arsenal's capabilities and capacity to rapidly manufacture armor and equipment to meet the growing demand and support vital combat missions.

However, as we begin to reduce our presence in Iraq, the Arsenal will start to return to peacetime workload levels. Our impending troop drawdown in Iraq will severely impact the future viability of the arsenal system if steps are not taken to make sure its facilities and workforce are up to date and capable of meeting future threats.

The arsenal system plays a vital role both in our nation's defense and economic security. Preserving an industrial capability must be a priority moving forward.

As the commander of the Army Materiel Command, I would like to know what plans both near- and long-term you have to recapitalize the arsenal's facilities, equipment and personnel and maintain its one-of-a-kind position in the organic base.

**PLEASE REPLY TO:**

1535 47TH AVENUE  
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I look forward to beginning a dialogue with you on this issue. Thank you for your service and dedication to the Army and the warfighter.

Sincerely,



PHIL HARE  
Member of Congress