

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

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AND URBAN AFFAIRS

RULES AND  
ADMINISTRATION

July 25, 2024

The Honorable Avril Haines  
Director of National Intelligence  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
1500 Tysons McLean Drive  
McLean, VA 22102

The Honorable Lloyd Austin  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Director Haines and Secretary Austin:

I am writing to request your assistance with a critical military construction funding shortfall at the Defense Intelligence Agency's (DIA) Missile and Space Intelligence Center (MSIC). As you are aware, MSIC is a Department of Defense (DOD) service intelligence center focusing on the analysis and assessment of foreign air and missile defense systems, ballistic missiles, anti-tank guided missiles, anti-satellite missile systems, and direct energy weapons. The beginnings of MSIC can be traced back to the 1950's. They also provided key analysis during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Cold War, and this critical national asset is just as important present-day.

As I take stock of the current heightened threat landscape around the world – China remains our pacing threat and refuses to relent, Putin's war against Ukraine continues, and our tremendous ally Israel continues to combat Iranian-backed terrorists who seek to wipe them off of the face of the earth. This reality means the mission and expertise of MSIC's highly trained scientists and engineers has never been more relevant and critical to our national defense and the safety and security of our courageous servicemembers deployed around the globe.

Between the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), Congress added \$304 million for two phases of military construction at MSIC, above the President's Budget Requests. At issue today are significant cost increases for Phase 2 of the construction project. Due to a 200% increase in the cost of electrical equipment and a 120% increase in the cost of specialized mechanical equipment, the funding shortfall to complete Phase 2 is approximately \$94 million. Without Phase 2 construction, MSIC will struggle to meet current scientific and technical intelligence needs for the DOD, the Intelligence Community, and the U.S. acquisition community.

During a February 24, 2023, groundbreaking ceremony at MSIC for this very project, Director Haines provided keynote remarks about the nationwide significant importance of MSIC, their mission, and skilled workforce. I agree with Director Haines, which is why I raised this funding shortfall on July 11, 2024, at the Senate Committee on Appropriations' Business Meeting to markup the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025. I am pleased to have received a commitment from Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray and MilCon-VA Subcommittee Chair Kyrsten Sinema to explore funding opportunities during the inevitable conference process.

At this time, the Congressional appropriations process and timing is uncertain. However, we have already identified there is an existing funding shortfall facing the MSIC Phase 2 construction project, and we cannot afford unnecessary delay. The longer it takes, the more expensive the project will become and the further we fall behind the likes of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

I am requesting for ODNI and DOD to explore all avenues to consider reprogramming, including but not limited to, the military construction accounts, National Intelligence Program, and Military Intelligence Program, as allowed by law, to fund the remaining Phase 2 project at MSIC.

Should you or staff have any questions, please contact my national security advisor, Mark McKinnon (mark\_mckinnon@britt.senate.gov or at 202-224-5744).

Sincerely,



Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator

CC:

The Honorable Michael McCord, OSD Comptroller

The Honorable Milancy Harris, Acting USD (I&S)

Lieutenant General Jeffrey Kruse, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency