



October 11, 2007

The Honorable James Webb
United States Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

Dear Senator Webb,

The Adjutants General urge conferees to oppose changes to the current structure of the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) until hearings and debate in Congress can properly evaluate the way ahead. The current structure, when permitted to function within the DoD, as provided by previous legislative guidance of the Congress, permits face-to-face consideration and debate by senior Reserve Component officers and the civilian leadership of the Department of Defense, with appropriate reporting to the Congress.

Current proposals to reduce or eliminate these Reserve Component leaders are counter-productive (Sec. 1623 in the Senate version; Sec. 531 in the House version). When permitted to work within its charter, the RFPB has stood the test of time and has provided a critical path on Reserve issues to our nation's leaders.

However, we understand that some modifying language could survive the conference. Were that the case, we urge the conferees to provide an implementation date of no less than one year following passage, so that heretofore absent hearings and informed debate can take place in the Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Francis D. Vavala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Francis D. Vavala
Major General
President