Good afternoon on this beautiful spring-like day in mid-Missouri! I am writing this afternoon as I do each week to bring you up to date on important happenings in our military and defense sector across the state and around the country, what I accomplished during the past week, and my schedule for the week ahead.

Much of our time during the past week continued to be focused on rescheduling our Military Appreciation Day 2020, which we had to postpone on February 5 because of winter weather and cancellation of Missouri House and Senate sessions on that day. I am happy to announce that we have tentatively set Tuesday, March 31, 2020 as that new date. More information will follow shortly as we get participant schedules resolved.

Our consultant team and I continued last week to talk to our local and regional partners regarding implications of the President’s FY 2021 DoD budget submission. We now believe we have a good picture of the impacts of the budget submission, particularly regarding the diversion of funding for the border wall construction. I will detail those impacts next week.

I was not on the road last week, working instead in the office on a number of policy and administrative issues.

Training session regarding the MO Military Communities Reinvestment Grant Program (MCRP) and the new Missouri Works-Military incentive

I was pleased on Friday to have the chance to connect virtually with a few dozen local and state economic and community developers through a “WebEx” online training session for our two new programs.

The MCRP was funded at $300,000 by the General Assembly in the current fiscal year. The MO Department of Economic Development (DED) and the MO Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) made 3 grants that are intended to:

- Assist Missouri’s military communities in supporting and sustaining their installations
- Encourage communities to construct action plans so they can be prepared for federal government realignment and closure decisions in the future
- Help communities attract new or expanded military missions
• Put in place military-focused programs very similar to attraction/retention of companies, but with strong community development features

A “military community” is defined as a Missouri non-profit corporation in good standing with the State and having as its purpose the “support and sustainment of a military installation or installations”. Local governments located in military communities may also be eligible to participate in the program.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please give me a call at 573-526-0186 or visit the [program website].

The Missouri Works-Military program, it is an expansion of the state’s main incentive program—Missouri Works—that provides incentives for the creation of quality jobs through opportunities for retained withholding tax and refundable tax credits.

When the program was enacted in 2013, “military” employers were not included among the for-profit or non-profit businesses that are eligible to use the program. The new provision passed and signed by the Governor in 2019 creates an additional tax credit in Missouri Works to be an incentive for jobs associated with “the expansion or improvement of a military base or installation”. It is aimed specifically at attracting new federal government jobs and investments at military facilities.

One example of how such an incentive can be effective was in Oklahoma in 2016. A program there similar to Missouri Works was used to secure the location of about 1,300 new jobs at Tinker AFB where a facility was built to service the new Air Force K-46 Tanker. OK was the winner in a competition with San Antonio and Wichita, KS.

Missouri now joins the roughly 25 states that fund on-base infrastructure projects either through programs like Missouri Works or through appropriations that are designed to support military missions and create military jobs in their states. If you would like to know more about the program, visit the [Missouri Works website].

Week ahead

In addition to refining plans for the newly rescheduled Military Appreciation Day 2020 during the coming week, I will be traveling to Little Rock AFB (LRAFB), Arkansas for meetings with my counterpart from the state and with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. We will be discussing opportunities to work together on military issues important to both states. I will also have the opportunity to help the LRAFB community organization celebrate its selection by the Association of Defense Communities as a “Great American Defense Community” in 2020.

Until next time, I welcome your feedback on the work I am doing on behalf of our military and defense sector.