



December 21, 2021

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator for South Carolina
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

On behalf of the Military Enhancement Committee, the Board of Directors and the more than five hundred employers that comprise the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce, we write to thank you for your hard work to strengthen and pass the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Timely annual passage of a national defense budget sufficient to ensure force readiness and counter global security threats is a top federal legislative priority for the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce. We are particularly pleased to see that the bipartisan, bicameral agreed NDAA language calls for year-over-year defense budget increase and addresses personnel-related matters including a pay raise, parental leave, and spousal employment. We are also delighted to see that Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is not part of the FY2022 plan.

Thank you for working to ensure \$130 million in funding for aircraft hangar, landing system, and operational support projects at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and \$6 million for entry control facility construction at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. These mission-critical military construction projects will support national defense objectives of the training and readiness missions located at Beaufort-area installations. They also help secure the \$2.2 billion annual impact of the armed services on the Beaufort region's economy.

The Beaufort-Port Royal region is a proud military community where business leaders understand that investment in national defense is an investment in economic vitality and our cherished way of life. Your attention to the needs of the Marine Corps and Naval missions at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, and Naval Hospital Beaufort are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Tuckwiller".

Jennifer Tuckwiller
Chair, Chamber Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neal Pugliese".

Col. Neal Pugliese, USCM-ret.
Chair, Military Enhancement Committee