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March 15, 2022

The Honorable Mark Takano
Chairman
House Veterans Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Fax: 202-225-7018

The Honorable Jon Tester
Chairman
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
United States Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Fax: 202-224-8594

Dear Chairmen Takano and Tester:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) wants to express its concern about the reduce number of organizations allowed to testify at hearings before the annual joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. For many years FRA has been allowed to testify. The Association is Congressionally Chartered in 1996, recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and entrusted to serve all veterans who seek its help. FRA would like to suggest that veteran's organizations that are Congressionally Chartered should be given a preference when selecting organizations to testify.

FRA notes that many veterans' groups, like FRA, that represents enlisted members exclusively (AFSA, NCOA, NERA, EANGUS, and TREA) were denied an opportunity to testify. Yet enlisted personnel make up more than 80 percent of the military.

FRA is a leader in the military/veteran's organization community and represents current and former Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard enlisted personnel on compensation, benefits and quality of life programs and works to improve benefits for these service members, their families, and survivors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher J. Slawinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" being particularly prominent.

CHRISTOPHER J. SLAWINSKI
National Executive Director

CJS:tw

cc: Ranking Member Rep. Mike Bost – Fax 202-225-0285

Ranking Member Sen. Jerry Moran – Fax 202-228-6966