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August 28, 2018

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Fax: 2022245744

Dear Chairmen, Vice Chairman, and Ranking Member:

On behalf of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), I want to thank you for the leadership you have demonstrated on behalf of our men and women serving in uniform, military retirees, reservists and their families.

Your significant efforts to pass the FY2019 defense appropriations legislation to be signed into law before the end of the current fiscal year is commendable and encouraging to our military community. FRA urges you to keep this focus and pace as we head into the final days of this fiscal year. As you well know, we remain a nation at war. Our services are suffering the effects of successive continuing resolutions, depleting resources, pushing an aging fleet, and stressing our warfighters to maintain a recognized dangerous force readiness and structure shortfalls. Our joint forces struggle to remain effective in the face of marginalized and unpredictable funding levels below approved budgets. The all-important FY2019 defense appropriations legislation provides the necessary resources and continuity for our military services to grow, equip, train, and sustain the all-volunteer force necessary to meet today's growing global threats. Please remain steady in your focus to deliver by the end of September the appropriations necessary to fully support the FY2019 NDAA.

Senator Shelby, sir, I like your quote, "The American military is the most feared fighting force the world has ever known." The passage in both chambers of Congress, and the signing into law of the FY2019 defense spending bill before the end of the current fiscal year, will help maintain this reality.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. SNEE

National Executive Director

cc: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell;
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
Speaker Paul Ryan;
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
Acting Chairman James Inhofe
Ranking Member Jack Reed
Chairman Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member Adam Smith