



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

August 15, 2018

The Honorable Mark Esper
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Esper:

I am writing to express my support for designating the Red River Army Depot (RRAD) in Texarkana, Texas, as the depot source of repair (DSOR) for the Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) program. RRAD already serves as the DSOR for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle which is substantially similar to the AMPVs. Experts at RRAD have been entrusted with maintaining, repairing, and rotating Bradleys into combat for decades. Their highly skilled expertise in manufacturing vehicles for combat environments is invaluable to the effective protection of our brave service members.

Additionally, RRAD is also the only U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) facility capable of rebuilding armored vehicle track and road wheels. As a Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle System, Multiple Launch Rocket System carriers, tactical wheeled vehicles, and rubber products, RRAD and its workforce are strategic assets for the DOD. The fact that RRAD has been excelling at this work for decades and the Bradley and AMPV are so similar makes RRAD not only the most effective option, but also the most efficient use of taxpayer resources.

The State of Texas and local municipalities have invested heavily in RRAD by improving U.S. Highways, Interstate Highways, water infrastructure, and railroads in and near the facility. The Office of the Governor has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in state grants to Texarkana College to purchase equipment to train employees for the sole purpose of working at RRAD. This has been done because Texas values the partnership it has with the DOD and is constantly looking for ways to assist the department in achieving its mission.

I look forward to continuing the state's successful partnership with the DOD at RRAD and respectfully ask you give careful consideration to designating the installation as the DSOR for the AMPV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:jck