

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

May 21, 2020

The Honorable Mark T. Esper
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20318

Dear Secretary Esper:

I request an extension of authority and additional funding under 502(f)(2)(A) of Title 32, U.S. Code for Washington National Guard employment in support of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic emergency response operations. Under this title, you are authorized to provide this authority and additional funding for National Guard resources to respond to incidents requiring resources essential for the preservation of life and property.

This nationally declared emergency is causing second and third order effects that will last long beyond the immediate threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. The state of Washington and the Washington National Guard requests an extension of the 100 percent reimbursement from FEMA for personnel-days and other associated costs related to COVID-19 pandemic response through July 31, 2020. The extension will assist the state in its transition of operations from National Guard-assisted to full civilian operations as community mitigation measures are lifted.

Current Washington National Guard-fielded support includes Community Based Testing Sites (CBTS), building testing kits, and food bank distribution support. Additionally, National Guard planners assist in coordination with our COVID-19 Food Security Team and other agencies to meet the health and welfare needs of Washingtonians through our phased re-opening plan. Current National Guard response missions are absolutely critical to the state's efforts to sustain a safe and responsible opening of our economy.

The state of Washington continues to need the National Guard's unique military administrative, logistics, and operational support to COVID-19 pandemic missions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor

