

## United States Senate

November 7, 2019

Major General Michael T. McGuire  
Chair, NGAUS 2024 Conference Selection Committee  
One Massachusetts Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear MG McGuire,

I am writing in support of the bid by the National Guard Association of Michigan and the City of Detroit to host the 2024 National Guard Association of the United States annual conference. Forbes declared the City of Detroit "America's Comeback City" as Detroit has transformed itself into an innovation hub while maintaining its blue-collar roots. The resilience our great citizens showed rebuilding our proud city brick by brick and block by block, is an inspiration that reflects the character required to modernize our military and regain our competitive advantage.

Detroit's comeback includes the resurgence of a vibrant hospitality industry. Downtown Detroit and the surrounding neighborhoods are home to numerous world-class restaurants, breweries, and hotels that will provide NGAUS with enjoyable dining, entertaining nightlife, and relaxing accommodations. The city is more than capable of ensuring the attendees of the NGAUS 2024 Conference have a memorable experience. Every year it is host to the North American Autoshow, the premier auto show that hosts over 35,000 attendees annually. Detroit successfully hosted Super Bowl XL in 2006, NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four in 2009, Marine Week in 2017, and CNN Presidential Debate in 2019. The annually occurring Belle Isle Grand Prix, Detroit Jazz Festival, Winter Blast Weekends, and Woodward Dream Cruise also demonstrate the region's ability to support a marquee event.

As the Arsenal of Democracy, Michigan is the automotive and manufacturing capital that allowed us to win WWII and is still the center of the military-industrial complex and capability development. The 2024 conference is taking place the same year the Department of Defense is planning on acquiring billions of dollars in new systems to replace legacy ground vehicles. A substantial portion of military ground vehicle research and development, engineering, and production will happen in the Detroit region.

The United States Army cannot win future military conflicts without Michigan! Detroit is the home of technology, manufacturing, and autonomous innovation. At the foundation of Detroit's rebirth was our city's ability to rebrand itself to attract and maintain our talented workforce. Nothing is more important than cultivating a talented workforce, which is why Detroit is the perfect location to host the 2024 conference. The National Guard Association of Michigan plans to focus on managing the talent and the development of our company-grade officers.

It has been over 30-years since the NGAUS Conference has been hosted in Detroit. It is time to bring the National Guard Association of the United States back to the Arsenal of Democracy and back to The D!

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator