

Resolution #2022-9

SUPPORT FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MONTANA

BACKGROUND

Federal military operations in Montana are critical to our national defense and are also an important source of economic health in our communities. Military assets in the state include Fort Harrison, Limestone Training Range, Hayes Military Operations Area, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Powder River Training Range, the Advanced Research Lab at MSU, and various Montana Army and Air National Guard units. From defense contracts and mutual aid agreements to the revenue generated by servicing military personnel, Montana's military has tremendous statewide impact.

Malmstrom Air Force Base provides more than \$384 million in economic impetus to the State of Montana. Military construction and service contracts provide more than \$27 million to local contractors, the base spends more than \$8 million for utilities, and Malmstrom services more than 7,000 miles of roads in Montana, which benefits Montana's commerce. In addition, the Montana National Guard provides more than \$185 million in economic impact to Montana, and there is currently over \$37 million invested in military-related construction projects across the state.

Malmstrom is slated to receive a major intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) upgrade called "Sentinel" commencing in 2026. Over the three ICBM bases, the upgrade is projected to cost over \$63 billion and will take 20 years to complete. When the system upgrades occur in Montana, it will have significant economic impact on the state and its industries.

The Department of Defense (DoD) also seeks to partner with host communities and states to improve the lives of military personnel and their dependents. Community partnerships and grant programs (Defense Community Infrastructure Program) also present opportunities for Montana to support their military installations. The DoD also seeks to support its military personnel by housing, childcare, mental health, veterans, spousal employment, and professional license reciprocity or full credential acceptance.

Federal base realignment and closure activities and other cost-cutting measures put current military missions and assets in Montana and Montana's economic well-being at risk. In addition, Montana communities are missing strategic opportunities for defense industry growth statewide.

ACTION

The League will support efforts to protect existing military assets in Montana, including preserving training ranges, preventing encroachment, collaboratively addressing national cuts to any military assets in Montana, and developing opportunities for mission retention, growth, and defense industry opportunities.