

July 12, 2021

Mr. Daniel Glasson Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation 2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 520 Arlington, VA 22202-3711

Dear Mr. Glasson:

I write to express my support for the City of Minot's July 12, 2021 Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) proposal for flood control mitigation projects that would benefit the dual nuclear mission at Minot Air Force Base (MAFB). Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

In 2011, a record-setting flood inundated the City of Minot, North Dakota and its surrounding communities, including MAFB. MAFB is home to the 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, which operates the B-52 Stratofortress, as well as the 91<sup>st</sup> Missile Wing, which is responsible for a third of our nation's intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). MAFB is the only dual nuclear base in the nation and plays an irreplaceable role in our national security. The base is also home to approximately 5,500 Airmen and women and their families.

During the 2011 flood, many of the defense access roads were inaccessible to the ICBM convoys, making it difficult to reach many of the 15 missile alert facilities and 150 ICBM silos. At one point, only one route was available to the convoys, which presented serious access and security concerns for many of the launch facilities. The flood mitigation projects that the City of Minot has proposed would ensure that additional routes would be available during any future flooding events. Flooding events in the region also hit especially hard on our service members and their families, with many of their homes flooding and being displaced for weeks.

Without these flood mitigation projects, there will continue to be negative impacts on readiness and the overall nuclear deterrent missions at MAFB. The projects proposed will be of immense benefit to both the City of Minot and increase the military value of MAFB.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Josh Carter of my staff by e-mail at <u>josh\_carter@hoeven.senate.gov</u> or by telephone at (202) 224-0015.

Sincerely,

John Hoeven U.S. Senator