

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

July 13, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Esper:

As the number of positive COVID-19 cases continues to climb in our state, it is clear that help from the Washington National Guard remains essential through the end of the year.

Given that, I request the 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 can provide this authority and additional funding for National Guard resources to respond to incidents requiring resources essential for the preservation of life and property.

Currently, more than 1,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are assisting with critical missions that keep our food banks operational and our neighbors fed. They are critical to our efforts to slow the spread of the virus by supporting COVID-mapping missions, assembling test kits, and operating community-based test sites. Additionally, uniquely skilled National Guard planners are assisting my COVID-19 food security team and other state agencies to ensure that we meet the health and welfare needs of Washingtonians through our phased re-opening plan.

The state of Washington and the Washington National Guard request an extension of the 100 percent FEMA reimbursement for personnel-days and other associated costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic response through December 31, 2020. This extension will help ensure a smooth transition of National Guard operations to civilian personnel as we control the virus and social restrictions are lifted.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this time-sensitive matter.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor

