

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 15, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

As members of Congress representing defense communities, we write to request information on the status of the Interagency Regional Coordinator for Resilience (IRCR) Pilot Project established by P.L. 117-263.

Military installations across the country are highly susceptible to extreme weather, including flooding, fire, and severe storms. When these events occur, they jeopardize military readiness and national security. Disaster prevention and response requires adequate planning and coordination between installations and their surrounding civilian communities. Congress addressed this issue when it established the IRCR Pilot Project in the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This pilot project directs the Department of Defense (DOD) to establish four IRCRs with at least one serving a defense community on each of the East, West, and Gulf Coasts. These communities must experience significant flooding and collaborate on multi-jurisdictional adaptation planning efforts. The intent of this law is to develop a framework that better facilitates collaboration between military installations and their neighboring communities to reduce disaster-related risk to national security.

However, without these coordinators in place, DOD has not satisfied the statutory requirements of the IRCR Pilot Project. To our knowledge, DOD previously appointed just one of the four coordinators required by law at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia to carry out IRCR responsibilities, but the position is currently vacant. That appointment is the only IRCR role that DOD has assigned since the FY2023 NDAA was enacted, and now, all four positions required for the pilot project are currently vacant.

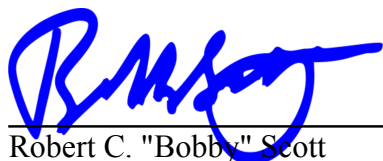
We request answers to the following questions on the status and future of the IRCR Pilot Project by June 30, 2026.

1. What is DOD's current plan to fill all four vacancies required for the IRCR Pilot Project? Please include a timeline for when DOD expects to establish IRCRs.
2. Why is the IRCR position at Naval Station Norfolk currently vacant following the departure of the initial IRCR? When do you expect to fill this position?
3. What steps, if any, has DOD taken to establish the other three IRCRs?

- a. Has DOD identified any of the other three military installations that DOD will assign IRCRs to? If so, please provide the name(s) of the base(s) and provide the justification as to why they were chosen.

Ensuring that our military installations and their surrounding communities are prepared for natural disasters is a priority for our communities and national security. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



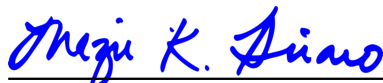
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



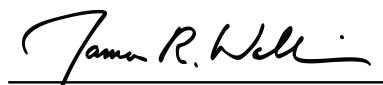
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



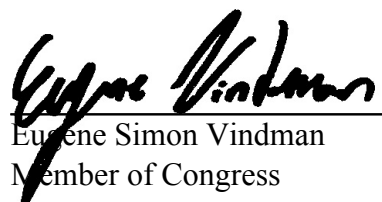
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



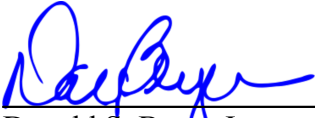
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



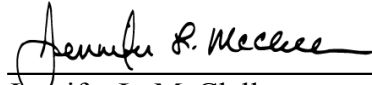
Ed Case
Member of Congress



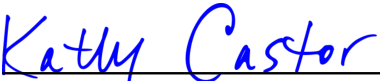
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



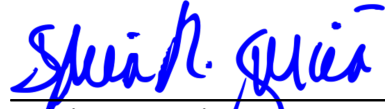
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



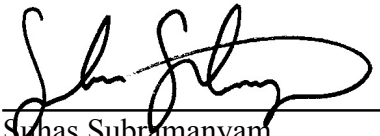
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



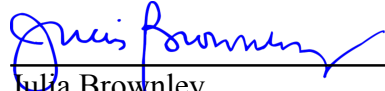
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress