

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2021

The Honorable John E. Whitley  
Acting Secretary of the Army  
The Pentagon  
Arlington, VA 20301

General Daniel R. Hokanson  
Chief, National Guard Bureau  
National Guard Bureau  
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear Acting Secretary Whitley and General Hokanson:

Throughout the course of their deployment in our nation's capital, the men and women of the National Guard have served honorably protecting and securing the United States Capitol. We appreciate and recognize the magnitude and effort that it takes to coordinate over 5,000 guard members in the region on such short notice.

Recently, there have been a cascade of reports describing the food being provided to our soldiers as poorly prepared, oftentimes inedible, and unacceptable. This includes meals that are severely undercooked, moldy, and even filled with metal shavings. It has also been reported that the low food quality has resulted in approximately 50 soldiers being treated for gastrointestinal complaints, with some of these members needing to receive medical care at military treatment facilities.

The quality of food being provided to the men and women serving in the capital is clearly unacceptable, unhealthy, and even harmful. We write today to request that per diems be issued immediately, so that guard members can secure proper meals for the duration of their deployment in Washington, D.C. Additionally, we also request that per diems be issued retroactively to cover the cost of guard members having purchased meals with personal funds due to the unsanitary and inadequate nature of the contracted meals.

Although these conditions have been widely reported and acknowledged by leadership at the National Guard, the situation does not appear to have been rectified and immediate action must be taken. As demonstrated over the last few months, the members of the National Guard have time and time again answered the call to provide assistance and security where requested. There is no reason they cannot be fed safely and adequately while serving in our nation's capital.

Thank you for your service to our country and we look forward to your prompt reply.

Respectfully,



Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress

Jared Golden  
Member of Congress

Greg Pence  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress

John Rose  
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters  
Members of Congress

Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress

Chris Jacobs  
Member of Congress

Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr  
Member of Congress

Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

Barry Moore  
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

Hal Rogers  
Member of Congress

Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress

Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress

Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress