

Congress of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 19, 2021

General James C. McConville  
Chief of Staff of the Army  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 22202

General Edward M. Daly  
Commander  
Army Materiel Command  
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35808

Dear General McConville and General Daly,

We write today to request your immediate attention to the condition of the storm water system under Lawson Army Airfield at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

Lawson Army Airfield (LAAF) has a storied history in support of U.S. national security for almost one hundred years. Today, LAAF provides critical support to two indispensable national security assets. First, the airfield is central to the training and deployment of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment as they conduct missions in support of global operations. Second, the airfield enables the continuous training program of the Army Airborne School, which supports the Army, all joint components, and foreign partners to ensure an airborne-ready force. The airfield is currently averaging 44 military flights per week and 23 civilian flights per week. However, twenty percent of the pipes under the airfield have failed, and an estimated thirty percent are failing. It is imperative the LAAF mission does not stall or falter due to infrastructure failings.

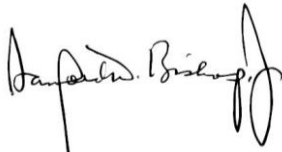
While we appreciate that the Army has a plan for investing in the storm water sewer system at LAAF in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, we request that as the Army determines end of year funding that has yet to be obligated, you strongly consider investing the \$11 million necessary to address this urgent need immediately. Given the vital role Lawson Army Airfield plays in strategic operations and the prevalence of once-in-a-century extreme weather events this year, we urge you to consider a more immediate funding path for the repairs in FY21.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Raphael Warnock  
U.S. Senator



Sanford Bishop  
U.S. Representative



Jon Ossoff  
U.S. Senator



A. Drew Ferguson IV  
U.S. Representative