



February 27, 2015

The Honorable Gerry Connolly  
House of Representatives  
2238 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Connolly:

On behalf of the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) and the 31,000 active-duty and retired members of the Foreign Service we represent, I would like to express AFSA's support for the President's request for funding of a new Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC) in Fort Pickett, Virginia.

AFSA supports the Ft. Pickett location as the ideal place to provide our colleagues with security awareness training that will keep them safe and secure while overseas.

The new FASTC will allow the men and women of the Foreign Service to develop the skills necessary to safely and effectively engage overseas in a cohesive, streamlined, and cost-effective manner. We strongly support the selected site because it fits three basic parameters necessary for a successful facility: cost, capabilities and efficiencies.

Aware of your unyielding commitment to Foreign Service employees and their families, we would appreciate the support of the Virginia delegation and its assistance in educating your fellow members of Congress about the benefits of having a facility within driving distance of the State Department and the Foreign Service Institute, which are respectively located in Washington, DC and Arlington, VA.

I would be happy to meet with you and the members of the Virginia delegation to further our advocacy for Ft. Pickett. Should you have any questions, please contact Javier Cuebas, AFSA Director of Advocacy at (202) 944-5517 or at [cuebas@afsa.org](mailto:cuebas@afsa.org).

Thank you for your support of the Foreign Service.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Silverman  
President

*Thanks for your great town hall  
at AFSA! Let's do it again.*