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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2008

The Honorable Pete Geren
Secretary of the U.S. Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20316

Dear Secretary Geren:

Following the revelation of the deplorable living conditions at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, I am pleased with your recent announcement that the Army will be using \$248 million in emergency funds to fix troubled barracks. As you consider how these funds are best used, I strongly urge you to consider improving the barracks at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Soldiers at Fort McCoy live in two story wooden barracks that were constructed as temporary housing during World War II and the Korean War. Fewer than half of the 276 barracks have been renovated or modernized in the subsequent years. The result has been barracks with missing floor tiles, clogged shower drains, peeling paint, and widespread mold. These poor living conditions negatively impact the safety, health, training, and morale of soldiers at Fort McCoy. More than 100,000 soldiers went through Fort McCoy last year.

I have toured the barracks at Fort McCoy on numerous occasions. While I am pleased that some progress has been made, much more needs to be done to provide our soldiers with the housing and facilities they rightfully deserve. Using a portion of the emergency funds to renovate and modernize Fort McCoy's barracks would significantly help in accomplishing this goal.

Sincerely,


Ron Kind
Member of Congress

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