



November 15, 2019

The Honorable Governor Pete Ricketts
State Capitol, 2nd Floor N.E.
Lincoln, NE 68509

Mr. Patrick J. O'Donnell
Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol, Room 2018
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Governor Ricketts and Mr. O'Donnell:

Please accept this report pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 55-606.

In 2019, Nebraska's Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs met twice pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 55-603. On June 18, 2019 the Commission voted to contract with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research to summarize and assess the economic impact of military assets in Nebraska. For 2019, the Commission put forth six recommendations that have their roots in the 2008 BRAC Task Force Report, were validated in 2017, and in some cases expanded in 2018. These six recommendations serve as the Commission's "recommendations for preserving and sustaining military assets and missions existing in Nebraska" and serve as the Commission's "recommendations for actions which the state can take to encourage expanding such assets and missions" pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 55-606. Of note, the Commission specifically recommended the passage of LB 153 which would change provisions relating to the taxation of military retirement benefits and LB 450 which would expand tuition assistance benefits to members of Nebraska's National Guard. On October 28, 2019 the Commission voted to amend and submit this report.

Questions may be directed to Phil O'Donnell, Military Affairs Liaison, at (402)-471-4546.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hilgert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John Hilgert
Chair, Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs