

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 11, 2026

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman McConnell and Ranking Member Coons,

We write to respectfully request your continued support for the U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining (SLICD) Program (formerly the Humanitarian Demining Research and Development Program), implemented by the U.S. Army. The SLICD Program specializes in developing and testing innovative technologies to detect and clear landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These technologies increase the effectiveness, efficiency, and safety of demining operations for military and humanitarian use – saving lives and taxpayer dollars. As U.S. adversaries develop and deploy new explosive threats around the world, SLICD must continue to receive the necessary resources to achieve breakthroughs in demining technology for the U.S. warfighter and post-conflict nations.

The SLICD team designs technologies to respond to technical challenges in the field, drawing from new commercial technology, equipment currently in use by the DOD, and advanced sensor technology available only through other DOD R&D programs. They then trial prototypes in real field conditions through partnerships with the Department of State's (DOS) humanitarian demining programs. During field evaluations, operators provide feedback on the functionality and effectiveness of the equipment. This allows SLICD to modify and improve the equipment and increase the U.S. technical capacity to respond to explosive threats.

SLICD generates three specific lines of effort. First, the field evaluation cycle collects enormous amounts of data helping to improve detection technologies used by our soldiers. Second, successfully trialed equipment is used to train and equip explosive disposal units of allied militaries. By equipping partner militaries to handle their own explosive threats, U.S. soldiers are more likely to remain out of harm's way. Third, SLICD equipment amplifies taxpayer value for money by increasing the amount of clearance performed through DOS projects without increasing costs.

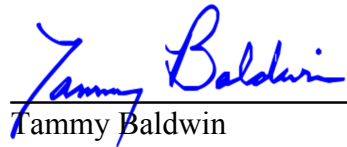
The SLICD Program has a track record of success, having performed over 300 operational field evaluations in 46 countries since 1995. The program is responsible for developing advanced technology for the Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System, which combines metal detection with ground penetrating radar. It has produced a savings of roughly \$60 million since 2007 from just one U.S. State Department-funded partner, including approximately \$8 million in 2025 alone. The use of the TRAXX/T800, developed through SLICD to cut through hard-to-see tripwires and lift mines from soil, saved more than \$8 million in Ukraine in 2024 and 2025 – completing in 3,358 workdays what would have taken 25,456 days with traditional equipment. Overall, HD R&D equipment has been used to clear more than 27,675 acres of land, and to destroy more than 420,000 mines and UXO.

Due to strong bipartisan support, Congress provided \$36.349 million for the SLICD Program in Fiscal Year 2026. We urge the committee to again provide \$36.349 million in Fiscal Year 2027 for SLICD.

Level funding will preserve the ability of U.S. soldiers and our allies' ability to safely detect and clear landmines, UXO, and IEDs, as well as protect civilian lives.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process to save many military and civilian lives.

Sincerely,



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



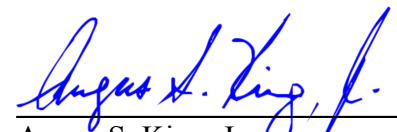
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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



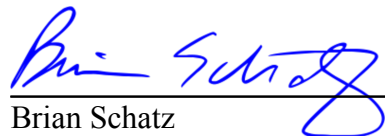
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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



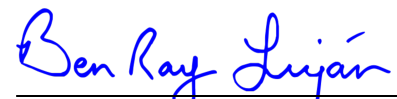
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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



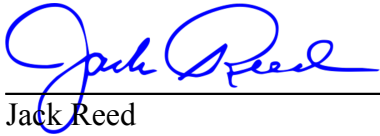
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



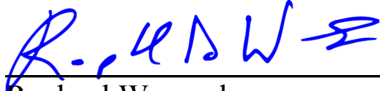
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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



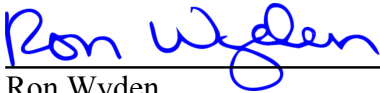
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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



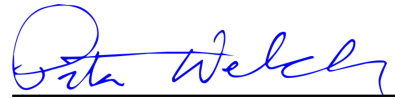
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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



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Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



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Peter Welch  
United States Senator



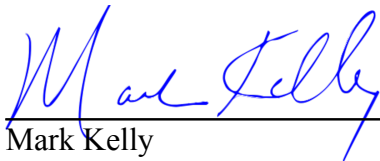
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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



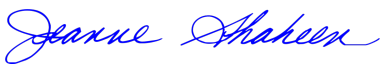
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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



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Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator



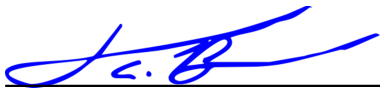
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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



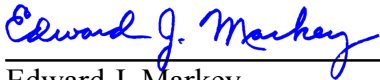
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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



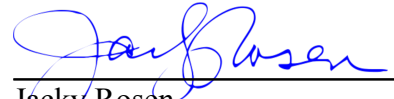
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Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator



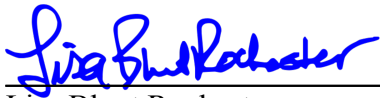
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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator