

House Armed Services Committee
Thursday April 27, 2017
Congressman Dave Loebsack (IA-02)

IAAAP: Line 3A Modernization

- I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for this opportunity to discuss a defense issue of importance not just to my district in Iowa, but to the warfighter, the US Army, and the taxpayer. The interests of all are well-served by this initiative.
- The Iowa Army Ammunition Plant (IAAAP) is one of the Army's six Government-Owned Contractor-Operated (GOCO) ammunition plants.
- Built in 1942, it's a vital part of our munitions industrial base with the production of High Velocity 40mm grenades, C4 blocks, tank and artillery rounds, and missile warheads.
- Today, IAAAP employs over 650 skilled professionals and is located in my district near the banks of the Mississippi River.
- Historically, however, IAAAP has not received sufficient modernization funding to upgrade critical manufacturing processes.
- An example of this is one of the production lines -- Line 3A – which is the nation's primary large caliber ammunition melt pour facility.
- Line 3A is a large, spread out manufacturing line requiring manual touch labor and lacking the adaptability needed for implementing new manufacturing technologies. Its modernization is long overdue.
- Modernization of this Army-owned line would yield more precise process controls, automation, environmental controls and a greatly reduced footprint.
- My understanding is that the proposed plan to modernize this line would reduce costs, increase efficiencies, and pay for itself in less than 5 years.
- I hope the HASC will find merit in this initiative and will support the modernization of Line 3A at IAAAP that will provide so many benefits to so many stakeholders.
- I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for your time and consideration.