

Congressman Eric Sorensen
HASC Member Day Remarks
April 8, 2024

On April 9th, I introduced the *Arsenal Workload Sustainment Act* with my colleague Senator Dick Durbin (IL). Currently, Army Depots are guaranteed fifty percent workload; however, the same cannot be said for Army Arsenals.

I am honored to represent Illinois 17th Congressional District, home to the Rock Island Arsenal. The Arsenal does not have an assured, sustained workload throughout the year. As a result of this uncertainty, Rock Island struggles to keep costs low while remaining competitive.

The *Arsenal Workload Sustainment Act* will provide Arsenals with a more predictable, sustained workload throughout the year. Specifically, the bill will require a 50 percent workload threshold for government-owned and government-operated Army factories and arsenals.

This will broadly apply to production that can take place at Army arsenals and factories, leveraging their unique role in the organic industrial base and capabilities, such as the additive manufacturing expertise at the Rock Island Arsenal. This certainty will allow them to keep costs low while remaining competitive with private industry in the manufacturing or procurement of defense products.

During my time in Congress, I have prioritized the wellbeing of the Rock Island Arsenal, my neighbors who work on the island, and their families. I will continue to work to ensure Rock Island is sustainable for generations to come.

I urge the Committee to include the *Arsenal Workload Sustainment Act* in this year's National Defense Authorization Act so we can create jobs, support working families, and bolster our national security.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify.