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Tactical Air and Land Forces  
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Good morning, I am Brett Flaughter, President of Winchester Ammunition. Winchester is a key supplier of small caliber ammunition to the U.S. Warfighter and we proudly operate the Government's Lake City Army Ammunition Plant. Thank you for inviting me here today to discuss Lake City and the important role it plays in the Industrial Base in support of the United States Warfighter.

Lake City is the nation's only government owned small caliber ammunition plant employing more than 1,700 highly skilled people. Today, Winchester can operate Lake City at a high level of readiness because of significant historic investments made to equipment, processes, infrastructure; as well as current production funding.

However, Lake City is an 80-year-old facility built during World War II. It sits on approximately 4,000 acres with over 300 separate structures; many beyond their serviceable life that must be maintained, updated, or replaced.

Winchester engages daily in the development of long-term strategic initiatives with the Government in support of the master plan and how it relates to the on-going modernization and transformation of Lake City. Key and immediate actions needed, some of which are included in the master plan, are on-going improvements in Lake City's safety, manufacturing processes, infrastructure improvements, cyber security and eliminating key single points of failure.

The tip of the spear that furthers the change of Lake City to a transformational small caliber facility is the 6.8mm Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) program. The 6.8 NGSW will bring transformational safety systems, facility design, manufacturing processes to Lake City and a new cartridge for the first time in more than 50 years.

Winchester has safely and efficiently operated ammunition facilities for more than 150 years, supplying the U.S. Warfighter since World War I. While we need little assistance in most areas of operation, there are key areas to consider for maintaining and improving a high level of readiness to serve the Warfighter.

First, our employees are highly skilled in small-caliber ammunition manufacturing, facilities management and construction, equipment design and build, and high explosives operations. Consistent and predictable funding is required to maintain the readiness of this highly skilled workforce and support on-going modernization efforts. In short, the ever-increasing competitive workforce landscape requires job security and that only comes through secure funding.

Second, the 6.8 NGSW program is critical to establishing a best-in-class small-caliber manufacturing operation and is consistent with the overall goal of modernization of Lake City. On-going funding support for this state-of-the-art program is required. As this new cartridge is developed and stood up at Lake City, we must not lose sight of the fact that funding must also remain strong for the current operations to address key areas of Lake City that are beyond their serviceable life.

And last, Winchester fully supports the Army Ammunition Plant Modernization Plan. The Plan addresses significant projects required at Lake City to improve technology and critical infrastructure deficiencies that will ultimately maximize reliability and readiness. Rapid modernization and transformation of Lake City requires on-going partnering between all stakeholders and requires timely decisions to drive successful execution of the Plan.

On behalf of Winchester's entire work force, I want to say we are proud of the support we provide to the Nation's Warfighters. I thank you for the opportunity to discuss Lake City and Winchester's dedication to the mission, and look forward to your questions.