

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

August 12, 2026

The Honorable Daniel P. Driscoll
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Driscoll:

Late last year, the U.S. Army announced a list of nine domestic military installations—including Fort Drum, New York—to be considered for the deployment of a commercial nuclear microreactor under the Army's Janus Program. The Janus Program is a critical opportunity to strengthen the Total Army's installation energy resilience through the deployment of next-generation nuclear energy and support future mission requirements consistent with the goals of the National Defense Strategy. I write to encourage you to select Fort Drum, given the installation's distinct combination of operational need, personnel, and existing infrastructure that make it an optimal site to spearhead the Janus Program.

Fort Drum is one of the most advanced and strategic military installations in the United States. Fort Drum has the facilities, personnel, and infrastructure needed to be the best-in-class site to field a nuclear microreactor. The garrison is home to Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield, which serves as the primary mobilization airfield for the 10th Mountain Division and is a strategic asset and power projection capability for the Joint Force. Moreover, Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division's operational tempo and strategic importance make the installation the ideal candidate to demonstrate the need for secure, onsite power generation to support military installations and critical mission sets.

As the Army continues to prepare for large-scale combat operations (LSCO) and conflicts in increasingly contested environments, where adversaries will target critical infrastructure, including the potential disruption of highly interconnected key power supplies and grid-level energy infrastructure, military installations must be capable of executing their mission even during prolonged outages and disruptions to the local grid. A nuclear microreactor would provide Fort Drum with a reliable, non-carbon polluting, independent, and continuous source of energy for mission-critical support functions, command and control elements, mobilization activities, and other vital capabilities during contingency operations. It would also allow the Army to validate the operational benefits of advanced nuclear energy while strengthening the resilience of one of its premier power projection platforms.

Furthermore, serving as the home to the 10th Mountain Division—the most deployed conventional Army unit since 2001—Fort Drum has long been a leader in developing, testing, and proving the Army's cold-weather and expeditionary capabilities, including hosting large-scale training exercises for multi-domain operations in harsh climate and austere environments that simulate conditions warfighters may encounter downrange. Fort Drum's permissive training environment would allow the Army to assess a microreactor's performance under realistic operational conditions, enhance the installation's energy resilience by reducing grid dependency vulnerabilities and interdependencies, and strengthen the Army's ability to maintain a high

readiness posture, including by informing its efforts to integrate resilient energy solutions into future operations.

For these reasons, I urge you to select Fort Drum to host a nuclear microreactor as part of the Army's Janus Program. I appreciate the careful consideration you will give Fort Drum's candidacy during the site selection process, and I am confident you will find that Fort Drum has the personnel, infrastructure, resources, and capacity consistent with the Army's basing criteria under the Janus Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Schumer" clearly legible.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Jordan Gillis
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy and Environment)