

Portage Development Board
Bradford Ehrhart, President
Testimony in Support of
Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 8
House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Lanese, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to you today on Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 8.

The Portage Development Board supports the consideration of the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center as the site for the proposed East Coast Missile Defense Site. The Portage Development Board is the lead economic development agency for Portage County, Ohio. We are a 501 c 3 private non-profit agency which is supported by county and local governments, local institutions, and private sector employers.

We believe that Camp Ravenna is the best location for the proposed eastern missile defense site for the following reasons:

- The camp is supported by excellent regional transportation facilities which include two major regional airports in the Youngstown and Akron-Canton areas, a class one rail road, and a strong highway network which can bring in equipment from around the country;
- The highway network also provides that camp access to a population of over 1.3 million persons within a 45 minute commute of Camp Ravenna. A map supporting this information is enclosed for the public record. It was prepared by Team Northeast Ohio, our regional economic development agency;
- The region is home to several universities and colleges which are a source of engineering, technical, accounting, and environmental services talent. The list of schools include Kent State University, Hiram College, Northeast Ohio Medical University, Youngstown State University, the University of Akron, Case-Western Reserve University, and Stark State College; and
- Portage County has been home to Camp Ravenna since it was started as an arsenal in 1942, and in the words of Frank Seman, the Mayor of the City of Ravenna, "We would welcome the opportunity to once again help defend our country."

Mayor Seman's statement can be found in his letter of support, which is one of the 40 letters of support that we present for the public record. A list of those who wrote letters of support is enclosed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 8, and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Frank Seman
Mayor and Safety Director

210 Park Way • PO Box 1215
Ravenna, OH 44266
p 330.296.3864
fseman@ci.ravenna.oh.us



August 8, 2016

MDA CIS EIS
6800 W. 115 Street
Suite 2200
Overland Park, KS 66211-2420

Dear Sirs:

You will soon be making a decision on the placement of a possible new Missile Defense System. The powers that be at all three states involved are all making an argument as to why their state and the identified site is the best. Our city, Ravenna, Ohio, has been directly affected by the arsenal for over eighty years. During World War II, it helped our growth and provided jobs for our citizens and businesses as well as providing employment for families who were moving to Ravenna to work at the arsenal. Many descendants still call Ravenna home.

Our community benefited greatly from the presence of the munitions manufacturing plant. The community also saw this as our patriotic duty to help protect the United States. We were contributing to the war effort.

As time moved on, the job opportunities dwindled and the arsenal became a "Sleeping Giant". Just of late, part of the 22,000 acres has come back to life with the establishment of the National Guard Unit, Camp Ravenna. It was also improve by becoming a training center for units from other locations.

During this "Sleeping Giant" phase, there has been very little economic growth between Ravenna's eastern edge and the city of Warren, Ohio. There are a few houses and a few farms, but very little else on the Route 5 corridor. The government saw fit to hold on to this asset. I believe by luck or by design this area is ready to serve our country once again.

The Ravenna Arsenal is site ready and will require little or no mitigation. It is in a highly populated area in Northeast Ohio, yet the site is remote by many standards. There is close access to major highways including the Ohio Turnpike. Planes already fly in and out of the Arsenal. There are three major labor markets supplying a skilled workforce: Youngstown, Akron, and Cleveland.

Ravenna is the County Seat. We provide full service for water, sewer, fire and EMS. We currently service Charlestown Township with EMS and back up for fire. The proposed site is in Charlestown Township. We partner with Portage County to provide additional services.

Most importantly, our citizens know the importance of this proposed missile site. We would welcome the opportunity to once again help defend our country.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Seman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Seman, Mayor

Camp Ravenna Support Letters

1. Aurora Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau
2. Automated Packaging Systems, Inc.
3. Cathleen Campriani
4. Cascade Capital Corporation
5. City of Aurora
6. City of Ravenna
7. City of Streetsboro
8. Sabrina Christian Bennett
9. Coleman Professional Services
10. County of Summit, Ohio
11. Delta Systems, Inc.
12. Development Finance Authority of Summit County
13. Dominion East Ohio
14. Fifth Third Bank
15. Greater Akron Chamber
16. Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County
17. Rebecca Harrington
18. Infinity Resources, Inc.
19. Kent State University
20. Mantaline Corporation
21. Medina County Economic Development Corporation
22. Medina County Port Authority
23. Mill Distributors, Inc.
24. NAI Daus
25. Northeast Ohio Medical University
26. Northeast Trade & Economic Consortium
27. Perme Financial Group
28. Portage Community Bank
29. Portage County Regional Planning Commission
30. Record Publishing Company
31. Renewable Lubricants, Inc.
32. Sherwood Advanced Technology
33. Small Business Development Center at Kent State University
34. Stark Development Board
35. State Senator John Eklund
36. Team Northeast Ohio
37. The University of Akron
38. U.S. Representative Bob Gibbs
39. Village of Garrettsville
40. Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company