



June 8, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
House of Representatives  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers:

On behalf of the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), I would like to express our concerns with the language included in the House FY16 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act which could delay progress on, and even force the relocation of the new Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC) from Fort Pickett, Virginia.

As the voice of the Foreign Service, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the reasons why we fully support the Ft. Pickett location as the ideal place to provide our colleagues with adequate security awareness training. It is our belief that the new FASTC will allow the men and women of the Foreign Service to develop the skills necessary for the safe conduct of diplomacy overseas in a cohesive, streamlined, and cost-effective manner. We strongly support the selected site because it fits three basic parameters necessary for a successful facility - cost, capabilities and efficiencies – and we have been pleased with the way the project has progressed to this point.

However, any further delays in the launching of this facility will be contrary to the spirit of the Accountability Review Board (ARB) for Benghazi and will send the wrong message to our members at post who are in need of a better and more integrated training facility.

Aware of your unyielding commitment to Foreign Service employees and their families, I would appreciate your support of the selected site and your help in educating your fellow members of Congress about the benefits of having a facility within a relative close range of the Washington Metropolitan area where over 5,326 of our members reside.

I would appreciate the opportunity to visit with you to personally to explain the concerns of our members. Should your agenda permits, please have someone from your staff contact Javier Cuebas, AFSA Director of Advocacy, to set up an appointment at (202) 944-5517 or at [cuebas@afsa.org](mailto:cuebas@afsa.org).

Thank you for your support of the Foreign Service.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Silverman  
President