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July 14, 2025

Derrick Anderson, Acting Secretary of the Army
RE: ROTC
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Acting Secretary Anderson:

I'm writing to you today concerning the decision to shut down the ROTC program at Clarkson University after the 2025-26 academic year. This program also serves St. Lawrence University, SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton. As the state Senator who represents Clarkson and this larger community, an alumni of Clarkson University and a Naval Veteran, I urge you to reconsider this move.

Clarkson University is one of the foremost engineering schools in the nation. The ROTC program at the university, paired with the school's engineering focus, serves as a vital pipeline for the Army Corps of Engineers as well as other branches that need their STEM focus in today's military. The students at Clarkson are highly trained and because of its renowned STEM programs and defense research partnerships, receive the type of specialized education that is essential for the next generation of military leaders. Additionally, Clarkson's relative proximity to Fort Drum – approximately 65 miles – makes the military installation, the largest in the northeastern United States, a particularly appealing location for graduates upon completing their studies.

Ending Clarkson's ROTC program and instead encouraging cadets to transfer to Syracuse University – more than 140 miles away - would be a major blow to our region, and to our Armed Forces. It deprives St. Lawrence County and those that surround it including the Jr. ROTC commands, Clarkson's home community of future student-leaders and would negatively impact the quality of candidates for the university going forward.

For the sake of the Army's mission that needs top technical talent and the dedication of Clarkson, its home community and our military, I request that you reconsider the decision to end the university's ROTC program.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DGST', written in a cursive, stylized font.

Daniel G. Stec
Senator, 45th District