



THE MINISTER-PRESIDENT
OF THE STATE
OF BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG



The Bavarian Minister-President
Dr. Markus Söder, MdL

HESSEN



The Minister-President of Hesse

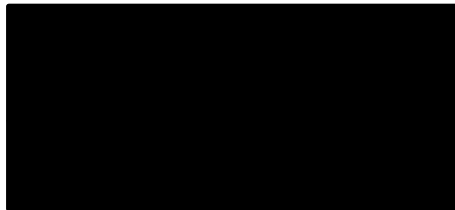


Rheinland-Pfalz

DIE MINISTERPRÄSIDENTIN

The Minister-President of the State of
Rhineland-Palatinate

17th July 2020



Presence of U.S. troops in Europe

Dear Senator Grassley,

We, the Minister-Presidents of the states of Rhineland-Palatinate, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, and Hesse, are turning to you as the announced partial withdrawal of U.S. forces from Germany is soon to be on the agenda in the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. forces stationed in our respective states, with their headquarters, airfields, military training areas, hospitals, logistics hubs and other important infrastructure facilities, combat units and support units, form the backbone of the U.S. presence in Europe and NATO's ability to act.

For decades, Americans and Germans have worked together to build and develop these unique and highly capable structures. They provide the necessary foundation for a partnership-based contribution to peace in Europe and the world, to which we all share a common commitment.

The stationing of U.S. troops in Germany serves the strategic interests of the United States of America. Also, its importance for the transatlantic partnership cannot be overestimated.

This partnership not only connects our two countries but also unites their people. Thanks to the U.S. presence in our towns and communities, the resulting friendship that has grown over decades constitutes an emotional bond between the citizens of Germany and the USA. That is why we plead for this profound partnership to continue and for U.S. forces to remain at their locations in Germany and Europe.

In challenging times, it is of utmost importance that we focus on our joint responsibility and mutual trust. We therefore ask you to support us as we strive not to sever the bond of friendship but to strengthen it, and to secure the U.S. presence in Germany and Europe in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Winfried Kretschmann

Dr. Markus Söder

Volker Bouffier

Malu Dreyer