

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

June 12, 2026

Daniel Driscoll
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Driscoll,

I write to you today to express my continued concerns with the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program that the Army administers on behalf of the military. Since the Army awarded the follow-on contract for the JLTV to AM General in early 2023, the program has been behind schedule and at risk of failure. To protect our military readiness, I ask that you support other Services' efforts to pursue alternative acquisition approaches to fulfill their JLTV requirements.

In early 2023, the Army awarded AM General a five-year, \$8.6 billion contract to manufacture up to 20,000 JLTVs for the Services. AM General was selected for this contract over Oshkosh Corporation, which had successfully produced the original A1 variant of the JLTV since 2016. As the Army shifted production to AM General, I expressed serious concerns to Army leadership regarding AM General's ability to deliver its A2 variant of the JLTV on time and at the contracted cost. At the time the contract was awarded, AM General had a "very high credit risk" after being saddled with \$675 million in expensive debt when it was acquired by KPS Capital Partners, a private equity firm, in 2020. In January 2023, shortly before the contract was awarded, Moody's Investor Service issued a credit opinion on AM General that said, "the company has limited capacity to absorb unanticipated operating or financial setbacks." Having never produced JLTVs before, AM General needed to incur significant startup costs to get a production line fully operating, as required by the Army contract.

Unfortunately, over the last three years, my concerns about AM General's ability to meet the JLTV contract have borne out. In response to my letters in 2023 and 2024, the Army provided assurances that it would provide strict oversight of AM General's production and potential risks of disruption to the program. Despite those assurances, AM General continued to flounder and the delivery of the JLTVs has continued to be delayed. AM General is now nearly two years late in delivering JLTVs and the Department of Defense (DoD) has yet to accept a single production standard JLTV A2, despite nearly \$2 billion in taxpayer dollars being obligated to AM General since the contract was awarded. This is unacceptable performance for one of DoD's largest vehicles contracts.

In 2025, the Army announced that it intends to pivot away from the JLTV towards the new Infantry Squad Vehicle and did not request any funding for JLTV procurement in the FY27 budget. However, the Army administers the JLTV contract for the entire DoD and, other Services, including the Marine Corps, continue to need JLTVs. The Marine Corps in particular is now facing readiness challenges because JLTV A2s have underperformed and delivery from AM General has been so delayed. To address this growing readiness gap, the Marine Corps has begun exploring alternative contracting options to procure additional JLTVs or JLTV-like

vehicles. To that end, on May 27, the Marine Corps posted a request for information for alternative potential sources of these vehicles.

It is vital that the Marine Corps and other Services have the vehicles they need to be able to fight in future wars. Unfortunately, the Army's risky financial decision in awarding the follow-on JLTV contract to AM General is imperiling the readiness of the Marine Corps. Therefore, I request that you:

1. Affirm that the Army will fully support the Marine Corps and any other Services pursuing alternative acquisition approaches to meet their JLTV requirements;
2. Direct the JLTV Joint Program Office to provide the Marine Corps full access to the technical data and program support needed to evaluate alternative sources; and
3. Provide my office, within 30 days, the Army's plan to ensure continued JLTV A2 delivery shortfalls do not further degrade Marine Corps readiness.

Thank you for your continued willingness to prioritize improving military readiness and support novel military acquisitions approaches.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

CC General Eric Smith,
Commandant of the Marine Corps