*The Honorable Claudia Tenney (NY-22)*
**Member Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee**

I would like to thank Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Rogers, and the distinguished members of the House Armed Services Committee for providing Members the opportunity to share their priorities with you today.

I am honored to represent New York's 22nd Congressional District, which stretches from the shores of Lake Ontario in the north to the Pennsylvania border in the south. The region has a strong heritage as a birthplace of innovation. The Erie Canal started here. It is where IBM was founded. And today, it is the headquarters for the Air Force Research Lab Information Directorate, which we in upstate New York simply refer to as "Rome Lab."

My congressional district is home to 96 percent of Rome Lab's workforce, which employs 830 military and civilian personnel and is responsible for 1,415 indirect jobs across the region. In addition, with a local economic impact of more than $500 million, Rome Lab is vitally important in driving economic growth and high-tech innovation in my community.

But just as important as Rome Lab's local impact is its impact nationally, which is unrivaled. It remains among our nation's top defense innovators. My requests this year on its behalf reflect investments that are needed to ensure our Nation continues to out-innovate and out-compete our adversaries and provide for our common defense well into the 21st Century.

History has proven that every dollar we invest in Rome Lab pays dividends well into the future, both in terms of the increased prosperity to the communities I represent and to the unprecedented advancements in our national defense capabilities.

I therefore ask for your full support of three critical requests for the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, all of which would greatly expand Rome Lab's capabilities and in turn enable the United States to compete globally with our adversaries, dominate the virtual battlespace, and counter emerging threats to our country.

The top request for the NDAA is authorization for $10 million to develop the first and only government-owned UAS Traffic Management system. This investment would be a true gamechanger, leading to the development of revolutionary tools to counter low-cost Small Unmanned Aircraft System that our adversaries use to target Americans, exploit air space, obscure their activities, and commit acts that disrupt our nation's economy and homeland.

The second request on behalf of Rome Lab is authorization language of $10 million for a Quantum Cloud Computing and Multi-Modality Network Testbed. It is a national security imperative that we continue to lead in the development of quantum computing technologies, especially given advances that continue to be made by adversaries like China. Last year, this Committee recognized the importance of investments in quantum technologies and the FY22 NDAA provided Rome Lab with an increase of $10 million for its quantum network testbed as well as an additional $10 million funding increase for its research into ion trap quantum

computing. In FY23, we ask that you continue to build on this forward progress by investing in the Quantum Cloud Computing and Multi-Modality Network Testbed.

My final request on behalf of Rome Lab is authorization language of $10 million for the development of the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) for Joint All-Domain Command and Control Future Flag Testbed. This effort builds on the 2021 NDAA Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Center of Excellence's four pillars – data, people, algorithms, and infrastructure – while adding a fifth pillar of capability. AI is a proven and rapidly advancing capability that has the potential to impact every aspect of the Pentagon's mission.

I thank you again for the opportunity to share my priorities with you on behalf of the dedicated men and women of Rome Lab, whom I'm honored to represent in Congress. I can assure you that these investments will deepen our military's expertise in cutting-edge fields and are essential for strengthening our nation's defense capabilities.