

Washington, DC -- Following his recent visit to Remington Arms with Army Brigadier General Mark Brown, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that he was able to secure a \$5.4 million funding authorization for Remington Arms to begin upgrading the U.S. Army's fleet of 3,000 M-24 Sniper rifles.

"Securing this funding authorization is a vital and necessary first step in the federal budget process," **Arcuri said**. "The brave men and women who sacrifice so much to protect our country deserve the best equipment on the ground and I know the superior craftsmanship and quality at Remington Arms is second-to-none. Upgrading the M-24 sniper rifles manufactured at Remington Arms will protect our troops around the world, and protect jobs at Remington."

The \$5.4 million funding authorization, requested by Arcuri, to upgrade the U.S. Army's 3,000 M-24 sniper weapons systems is included in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 5658) passed by the House Armed Services Committee last week. The full House is expected to consider and approve H.R. 5658 later this week. The M-24 sniper weapons system upgrade will also require approval by the House Appropriations Committee, which is expected to occur in the coming months.

M-24 Sniper Weapons systems have been fielded to the United States since 1987. Remington has been maintaining these weapons in Ilion, New York, and will be responsible for M-24 upgrades in the future.

**Joe Gross, Remington's Vice President for Firearms Manufacturing said**, "Our Remington employees in Ilion are pleased that the Congress has recognized the Army's need to upgrade the M-24, and that the work should be done in Ilion. We are grateful for the leadership that Congressman Arcuri has demonstrated in securing this important authorization."

**Ilion Mayor Mark Cushman said**, "This is wonderful news for Remington, the Village, and for our servicemen and women, and knowing that the spirit and quality of Remington is in the hands of America's fine soldiers makes this a proud day for us all."

At Arcuri's request, U.S. Army Brigadier General Mark Brown (Program Executive Officer – Soldier) joined Arcuri for a tour of Remington Arms in Ilion on May 9, 2008, to highlight Remington's superior craftsmanship and world-class workforce. General Brown is responsible for design, development, procurement, and sustainability of virtually everything U.S. soldiers wear or carry in the field, including the M-24 sniper weapons systems.

“It was an honor to host Brigadier General Brown in Ilion this month, and I am pleased that community efforts have resulted in this critical authorization,” **Arcuri said**. “Upgrades for the M-24 sniper rifle are not only beneficial the local economy and soldiers across the globe, but for taxpayers across the country. I will continue to work with Remington to expand beyond traditional sporting firearms and into long-term military capabilities that will strengthen the company and spur economic growth in our region.”

Remington’s proposal to upgrade the M-24 sniper rifle would save the federal government nearly \$6 million dollars.

Remington Arms in Ilion is in the process of working to expand their expertise into a more military presence. In Ilion, the company currently manufactures most of the M-24 sniper rifles used by U.S. servicemen and women across the globe. Remington has been a significant employer in Ilion since 1828 and currently over 900 employees work in the plant. Five hundred Remington Ilion employees will work on the M-24 upgrade.

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