

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 31, 2014

The Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Secretary James:

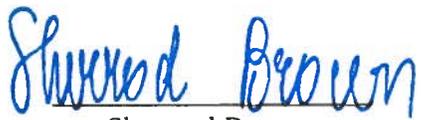
As the Air Force continues its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) examination of candidate bases for the initial beddown of the KC-46A "Pegasus" tanker, we want to convey our strong support for the Ohio Air National Guard's 121<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing based at Rickenbacker Air Guard Station (AGS). Rickenbacker is prepared to accept this mission and this unit has a proven record of performance, along with active support of local partners, which give the location unique benefit to the Air Force. We continue to ask that full consideration be given to Rickenbacker as this EIS and basing site selections continue.

In previous Air Force assessments, there may not have been a full appreciation or ability to show how much capability Rickenbacker AGS offers with our local partnerships in the Columbus, Ohio region. As you may know, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) governs Rickenbacker, Port Columbus International Airport (CMH) and Rickenbacker Intermodal. Combined, these assets include four heavy lift capable runways, rail head traffic, road traffic, and distribution and warehouse facilities creating a true inland port. Geographically, Rickenbacker AGS is well situated to provide responsive support to the significant demand for aerial refueling in the eastern United States and in particular the heavy concentration of fighter and cargo aircraft in the southeast states and as the draft EIS identifies, the fielding of KC-46A to Rickenbacker would entail the least increase on airfield operations of the existing alternatives, minimizing the associated impacts of changes to flight operations.

We believe that the proven performance and wealth of experience at the 121<sup>st</sup>, Rickenbacker's facilities and existing operations, strong local partners and support enjoyed by the unit continue to make it an ideal location for a KC-46A "Pegasus" Main Operating Base. We encourage you to give Rickenbacker AGS every consideration as the Air Force makes basing decisions now and into the future.

Thanks you for your service to our nation and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress