

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

December 11, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
119 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John P. Murtha  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
House of Representatives  
Room H-149 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye and Chairman Murtha,

As your deliberations on the FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Conference Report continue, we want to thank you for your work on behalf of our nation's military.

We know you are aware of the issues with foreign military sales (FMS) training at the Springfield Air National Guard Base in Ohio. The Springfield Base remains at a crossroads and its future is threatened should the FMS training mission be terminated. This would cost the Air Force nearly 400 quality pilots, mechanics, and expert support personnel. As the Air Force faces the strains of our current military operations, it is critical that we retain these men and women.

Unlike other FMS training facilities, Springfield is not able to offer tuition-based training due to a very narrow interpretation of 2005 BRAC requirements by the Air Force. We ask for your assistance to direct the Air Force to place 10 Primary Assigned Aircraft (a total of 12) U.S. Aircraft for FMS training purposes at Springfield. The Air Force has invested a significant amount of money at Springfield to ensure the ability of the base to perform on-going and future training missions. We believe that this assignment of aircraft will help reduce costs for both the Air Force and FMS partner nations. This placement of aircraft would be consistent with BRAC guidelines and requirements.

As you know, allies and alliances are our best force-multipliers as we continue to confront the security challenges of the 21st century. The United States must maintain sufficient capacity and continue its investment in world-class facilities and instructors for our FMS training partners throughout the world. This investment is directly related to the vitality of the American workforce and the defense industrial base. Without this investment in our training infrastructure, our allies and partners may look to source from other nations as they determine their future purchases of fighter aircraft. As such, a continued and robust FMS Mission at Springfield Air National Guard Base is in the U.S. national security and economic interest.

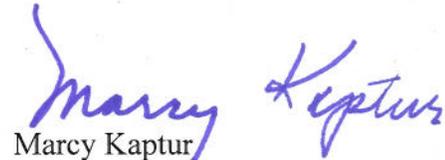
Thank you for your assistance with this important matter.

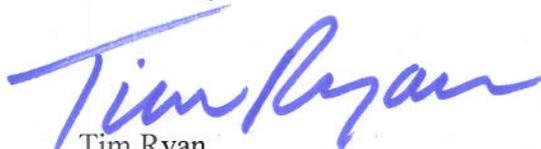
Sincerely,

  
George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator

  
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

  
Steve Austria  
Member of Congress

  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

  
Steven LaTourette  
Member of Congress