



January 20, 2010

The Honorable William Lynn, III
Deputy Secretary
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Lynn:

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring a bright future for the Springfield Air National Guard Base. We appreciate the conversations that we both have had with you regarding this issue.

The recent decision by the Singapore government not to locate its F-16 pilot training at the Springfield Base was devastating news to a community that has worked hard to secure that mission. The Air Force assigned the mission to Springfield through the Total Force Integration initiatives because it knows the importance of the Base and its people to our national security. The Singapore government's decision jeopardizes the future of the base.

Your commitment to secure new missions and timely funding to preserve those 390 full time jobs and maintain operations at Springfield is critical to saving the Base. More importantly, our military cannot afford to lose the dedication of the men and women at the Base who have served our nation for decades.

Springfield has suffered disproportionately in the nation's struggling economy. Losing the Base would be devastating to the community that has invested so much of its history to serving our nation. We look forward to working with you on developing this new mission — one that has long term relevance to U.S. national security — and ensuring the long term vibrancy of the Base.

Your leadership is critical and much appreciated. Thank you for your work on behalf of our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

Ted Strickland
Governor

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator