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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 26, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your leadership of our nation and Armed Forces.

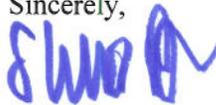
I am concerned that the Department of Defense (DOD) is planning to eliminate the C-27J procurement program despite the plane's comparatively low operating costs and critical supply and operating functions. Incorporating C-27Js into our overseas missions has freed up our nation's CH-47 fleet, enabling it to focus on providing aerial assault and resupply support to our ground troops located in remote areas. In addition, I understand that it costs almost five times more to operate a CH-47, per hour, than it does to operate the C-27J. Elimination of C-27Js could have detrimental effects on the safety and effectiveness of our deployed servicemembers, while simultaneously increasing the costs of transporting troops and delivering supplies to remote areas.

Ohio's Mansfield Air National Guard base houses a wing of C-27J Spartan intra-theater airlift aircraft. This wing is a crucial tool for our servicemembers and is critical for our nation's national security and overseas operations. It has performed beyond expectations and this mission supports approximately 350 full-time jobs and 1,000 part-time jobs that could be at risk if the program is terminated. Mansfield's proven record of success, including being first on the ground after the Haiti earthquake of 2010, illustrates the importance of the base's work and mission.

I ask that you reject proposals to eliminate the future procurement of the C-27J program until DOD has met with all stakeholders and has considered the full fiscal and operational ramifications of ending C-27J procurement. Should such an analysis determine that the C-27J program be eliminated, I ask that you require DOD to identify a replacement mission for Ohio's Mansfield Air National Guard base before its C-27J mission – and the men and women who serve it – are terminated.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment as Commander in Chief to ensuring our nation's servicemembers have the resources they need to accomplish their missions.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator