

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 12, 2010

The Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary
United States Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

General Norton A. Schwartz
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Dear Mr. Secretary and General Schwartz:

As the Air Force continues to examine sites to house the C-27J Formal Training Unit (FTU), we want to express our strong and united support for the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing based at Mansfield Lahm Airport.

The 179th has contributed to our national defense and homeland security efforts since 1948. Its Guardsmen stand ready to fulfill any mission assigned to them, and have compiled an admirable record of service over the last six decades. When the nation was mobilized to assist in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the 179th went to work, transporting more than 1,200 service personnel and more than 300 tons of cargo to the Gulf Coast. Missions such as this are not new to the unit, which has answered the call during past disaster relief work and assisted with vital defense operations in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and elsewhere around the world.

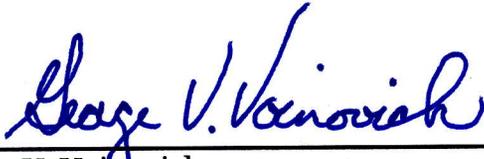
Under the initial recommendations of the 2005 base closure round, the 179th was slated for closure. Thanks in large part to the professionalism and leadership of the men and women of the 179th--coupled with strong support from the local community and from across Ohio--not only was this decision reversed, but the 179th was selected to be the first unit in the country to receive a C-27J mission. Mansfield's Guardsmen took delivery of the first C-27J in August and expect to have a complement of four by early next year. The experience they are already gaining with the new aircraft will be of great benefit to the Air Force and the Guard in choosing a site for the FTU.

Mansfield Lahm Airport itself is well-positioned to accept the FTU, with two runways, clear airspace, and no competing commercial or regularly scheduled private carriers. The airport features a new fuel storage facility, a new security forces operational facility, and a new air operations/communications facility. Sufficient ramp space exists to accommodate 12 C-27Js; this can easily be expanded to accommodate 16.

We believe that the wealth of personnel experience at the 179th, Mansfield Lahm's outstanding facilities, and the strong local and statewide support enjoyed by the unit make it the ideal location for the C-27J FTU. Consistent with all applicable rules and regulations governing your work, we encourage you to give Mansfield every consideration as you make your final decision in the months ahead.

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

Yours truly,



George V. Voinovich
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



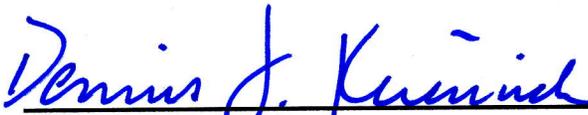
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



John A. Boehner
Member of Congress



Steven C. LaTourette
Member of Congress



Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



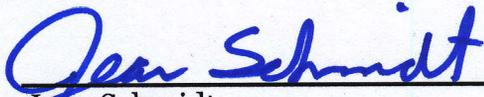
Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress



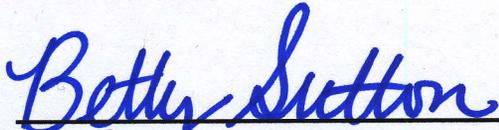
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

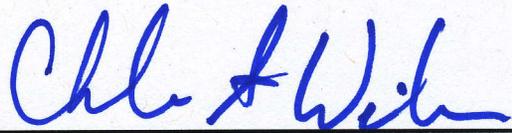


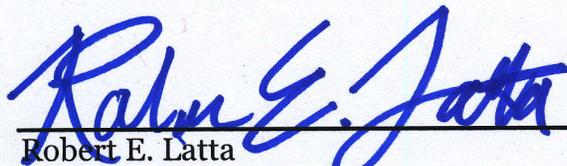
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress


Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

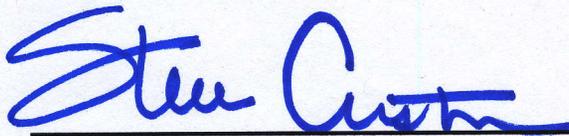

Zachary T. Space
Member of Congress

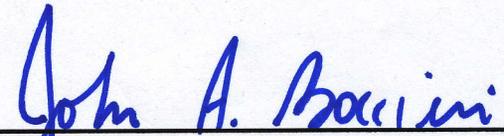

Betty Sutton
Member of Congress

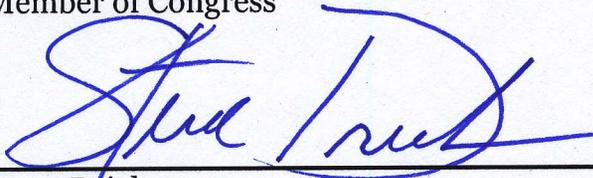

Charles A. Wilson
Member of Congress

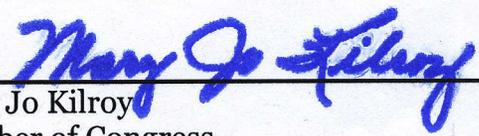

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Steve Austria
Member of Congress


John A. Boccieri
Member of Congress


Steve Driehaus
Member of Congress


Mary Jo Kilroy
Member of Congress