



April 15, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Lynn:

Thank you once again for taking the time to speak with us regarding the Ohio Air National Guard base in Springfield. We are grateful for your attention to the missions of the Ohio National Guard and your willingness to work with us to preserve military and full-time positions in Ohio. While we have seen some positive developments, we remain concerned that the actions we discussed several weeks ago do not seem to be progressing.

The urgency for action is clear. The Royal Netherlands Air Force presence at Springfield will end in September 2010 if the Air Force is not able to extend the Dutch training mission. The Ohio National Guard is already attempting to reshape its force by running a voluntary reduction in force (RIF) throughout its Air Guard personnel statewide. But on July 1, 2010, unless future missions are in place and funded, and the staffing documents are provided to the 178<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Ohio will be forced to begin an involuntary RIF of 154 full time personnel to adjust the force for the smaller mission set.

As we discussed, the 178<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing should be staffed at 866 military positions with a proportionate number of full-time positions. The U.S. Air Force's Strategic Basing Executive Steering Group (SBESG) has developed five draft courses of action (COAs) for Springfield, which included different combinations of several possible missions: an expanded National Air and Space Intelligence Center footprint at Springfield; a distributed ground system (DGS) mission; and a remotely-piloted aircraft (RPA). However, none of the COAs account for 866 positions. We understand that decisions regarding missions do not always run through SBESG, and we would encourage an alternate process in this case in order to reach a more timely outcome.

Moreover, each of the COAs call for relocating 54 full-time positions from Springfield to the 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in Mansfield for increased C-27 staffing requirements. Taking jobs from Springfield to fulfill an Air Force Total Force Integration initiative in Mansfield would result in an unacceptable net job loss for Ohio.

Finally, two other issues are of concern to Springfield. First, the Ohio National Guard provides all fire and rescue services for the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport. The cost to the local community to provide these services would be \$1.8 million annually with a start-up cost of \$4.5 million. If the Springfield mission changes so as not to include a flying mission, we would ask that National Guard fire and rescues services are maintained as was done in Springfield, Illinois, when that base ceased its flying mission. Second, we ask for your assistance to expedite the release of an FY 2009 appropriation for the \$12.8 million communications complex for the 251st Combat Communications Group and the 269th Combat Communications Squadron co-located at Springfield.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We will contact you shortly to arrange a follow-up conversation.

Sincerely,



Ted Strickland  
Governor, State of Ohio



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator