

October 23, 2020

Chairman James Inhofe  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Adam Smith  
House Committee on Armed Services  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Jack Reed  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Mac Thornberry  
House Committee on Armed Services  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees:

We are writing you to express our serious concerns about the United States Air Force's (USAF) proposed reduction in the Air National Guard's C-130 Total Aircraft Inventory (TAI). We understand that USAF seeks to cut five flying squadrons as part of an effort to reduce the C-130 TAI to approximately 255 aircraft over the next five years.

Governors have articulated numerous times over the years the detrimental impact of reducing our airlift capacity. This reduction would make it difficult - if not impossible - for the Air National Guard to support routine training missions, as well as domestic operations to respond to emergencies and disasters. Furthermore, the C-130 fleet is instrumental in sustaining the training and operations readiness of Army Airborne units in the active Army.

As the Congress contemplates TAI in the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the House of Representatives proposes a C-130 TAI of 292. We are supportive of this number, as we believe it would allow the Air National Guard across the country to continue to support the National Defense Strategy (NDS), as well as domestic missions in response to hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and other emergencies. In fact, the 2018 Mobility Capabilities and Requirements Study (MCRS), which was directed by the FY2018 NDAA, indicates 300 as the number of C-130s required to meet combatant commander mobility requirements to support the NDS wartime

missions through 2023, let alone domestic operations that are critical to the safety and security of the nation.

Reducing the C-130 TAI to 255 puts at risk our ability as governors to adequately and appropriately respond to domestic operational needs across the country. We urge you to support the House's position of 292 C-130 TAI to ensure that the Air National Guard can continue to maintain its readiness and capabilities to meet the needs of our states and our nation.

Sincerely,



Tim Walz  
Governor  
State of Minnesota



J.B. Pritzker  
Governor  
State of Illinois



Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California



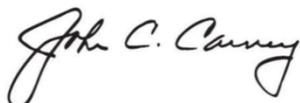
Mike Parson  
Governor  
State of Missouri



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
State of Connecticut



Steve Bullock  
Governor  
State of Montana



John Carney  
Governor  
State of Delaware



Steve Sisolak  
Governor  
State of Nevada



Brian Kemp  
Governor  
State of Georgia



Mike DeWine  
Governor  
State of Ohio



Gina Raimondo  
Governor  
State of Rhode Island



Greg Abbott  
Governor  
State of Texas



Jim Justice  
Governor  
State of West Virginia



Mark Gordon  
Governor  
State of Wyoming