

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 2021

Senator Jon Tester  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
United States Senate  
United States Senate  
S-128  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
United States Senate  
United States Senate  
S-146A  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Tester and Vice Chairman Shelby:

We write in support of additional procurement of at least eight C-130J Super Hercules aircraft as part of the modernization effort for the Air National Guard in the Fiscal year (FY) 2022 Defense Appropriations bill. Without the Subcommittee's continued support, we remain worried that the Air National Guard, which provides over half of the Air Force's tactical and mobility airlift, will be underequipped in future conflicts contemplated by the 2018 National Defense Strategy.

We continue to support a topline number of 300 tactical airlift aircraft, and at least 292 C-130J aircraft to ensure mission readiness, as was stated in U.S. Transportation Command's 2018 Mobility Capabilities and Requirements study. Today, our C-130H models are in need of a number of critical upgrades to propellers, engines, and propulsion systems, not just to remain survivable against newer threats, but also to ensure safe flight during training. As such, we support strong funding for the quick modernization of all Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve C-130H aircraft that are not recapitalized with the newer C-130J models.

However, recapitalization to newer C-130Js is critical to the success of our National Defense Strategy. While the Air Force no longer flies C-130H models and instead only uses more than 100 C-130Js for their tactical and mobility airlift needs, the Air National Guard currently has only 16, and the Air Force Reserve has 10. And yet, in recent years, we have seen the heroic efforts of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve utilize their aircraft to support a variety of increased domestic priorities, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, civil disturbance, and natural disasters including winter storms, flooding, and wildfires.

The Subcommittee has wisely supported the procurement of additional C-130J models for the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, striving for parity between the active and reserve components. We strongly urge you to continue to recapitalize and upgrade Air National Guard units with at least eight additional C-130J aircraft in the FY 2022 Defense Appropriations

bill. Such robust funding will help our brave service members have the best, newest equipment to provide for their safety as well as our vital airlift capability and national security needs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

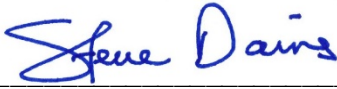
Sincerely,



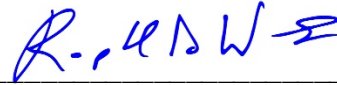
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



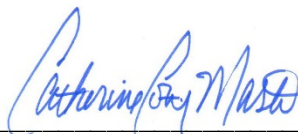
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United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez-Masto  
United States Senator