

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

December 5, 2019

The Honorable Barbara Barrett  
Secretary of the Air Force  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1670 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Barrett:

We write today in support of your inclusion of the Montana Air National Guard as a final candidate for a new Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES). Additionally, we ask for your consideration of the 120<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in the Air Force's future strategic basing decision to recapitalize two C-130H squadrons in the Air National Guard to new C-130J Super Hercules squadrons.

The 120th has the current operational mission and infrastructure required and is well equipped to facilitate the bed down of the C-130J which would also enhance the capabilities of the new Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. We are confident the location of Great Falls, Montana is key to meeting and exceeding the Air Force's mission factors that are weighed and measured during both strategic basing processes. We would also like to highlight that the hangars currently in use for our C-130Hs, the oldest C-130s in the Air Force inventory, will fit the newer C-130J and additional ramp space is already authorized, appropriated, and under contract. This investment ensures that Great Falls has all of the capabilities required by these new missions and shows our continued support of the C-130 mission in Great Falls.

The Montana Air National Guard is the clear choice for these missions because it has the potential for the Air Force to execute the decision without significant investments to Military Construction funding and with minimal investments in facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization. Additionally, the base is a geographically optimal northern-tier location that will fill a strategic Airlift mission and Aeromedical need for the Northwestern region of the country. Lastly, Montana is a premiere training location with optimal cold weather, high altitude, and some of the best airspace in the world with military operating areas and high terrain low level routes that make the Montana Air National Guard 120th ready for any future conflict.

We thank you for your ongoing leadership, and hope you will consider Montana as the future home for the next C-130J Super Hercules and Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. We look forward to hearing from you as you continue the strategic basing process.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress