

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 14, 2016

Lieutenant General James Jackson  
Chief of the Air Force Reserve  
1150 Air Force Pentagon, Room 4 D 762  
Washington, DC 20330-1150

Dear Lieutenant General Jackson,

As the Administration completes its work on the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal, we write to request that the budget accommodate our proposal to locate a KC-135 mission at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS).

Since transitioning to the C-130 mission following the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, the 914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve and the 107<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard have constituted an important component of the United States Air Force's (USAF) global mobility mission, facilitating the rapid movement of personnel, material, and forces in inter-theater and intra-theater operations. The 914<sup>th</sup> currently flies 8 C-130 H2 aircraft while the 107<sup>th</sup> is transitioning to a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) mission.

However, as air refueling operations become an increasingly important USAF mobility mission, enhancing our nation's ability to project power and sustain operations, we believe NFARS is uniquely positioned to support a KC-135 mission by drawing upon its high quality workforce, infrastructure and location.

As you know, the 107<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing previously supported the KC-135 mission, having flown this airframe for over a decade until transitioning to the cargo lift mission. At the time, a number of significant infrastructure upgrades were made to accommodate this mission, and much of the key tanker infrastructure, including fuel storage, fuel dispensing, reinforced runway and ramp space still exist. To that end, assessments have indicated that reprising these assets would require minimal expenditures.

As the largest employer in Niagara County, and a key part of our nation's national security infrastructure, New York's Congressional Delegation, State Government and community leaders are committed to doing what is required to secure an enduring mission for the 914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at NFARS.

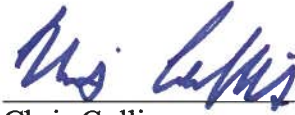
We thank you for your continued support of NFARS and believe that it would be well suited for the KC-135 mission should these aircraft become available as new tanker aircraft come online.

Sincerely,



---

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



---

Chris Collins  
Member of Congress



---

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress