

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

There are zero budgeted C/KC/HC/LC-130Js in the entire FY2025 USG budget for the first time in program history. We are writing to strongly urge the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense markup of the FY25 Defense appropriations bill add 8-16 Air National Guard (ANG)/ Air Force Reserve (AFR) C-130J aircraft, add 3-5 Navy Reserve (USNR) KC-130J to continue C/KC-130T recap, add 2 KC-130Js for USMC operational aircraft losses, and add the first 2 ANG LC-130J and \$68 million for non-recurring engineering for the ANG's new start of the LC-130J replacement of the 3 oldest LC-130Hs as they are 50-51 years of age. These actions would fill the production line at a critical time and continue the unbudgeted recapitalization of the remaining 120 legacy Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve (AFR) C-130Hs and begin recapitalization of the 30 aging USNR C-130T fleet logistics aircraft and the 10+ oldest NYANG LC-130H "arctic ski birds."

FY2025 represents uncharted unfunded territory as another year beyond MYP-III (FY2019-2023) – a multiyear procurement program that saved more than 10 percent per aircraft and more than \$379 million over 50+ C-130J aircraft. There are zero C-130J variants budgeted for FY2025-2026, until FY2027, when the USN is planned to begin funding 30+ EC-130Js for the US Navy TACAMO "Take Charge and Move Out" strategic submarine airborne C2 fleet.

Recapitalization of the aging USNR C-130T fleet by 2030, +1 of which were included in the FY24 USN UPL and USNR's top equipment priority, would deliver capabilities sought by former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Mike Gilday in the Navigation Plan 2022. Unfortunately, the existing C/KC-130T has a low mission capable rate. Noted by the Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Admiral John Mustin in 2022 before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, recapitalizing the USNR C-130 fleet will provide an annual transportation cost savings of \$200 million. As the US Navy's sole source of intra-theater air logistics replenishment of its ships, new recapitalized KC-130Js would ensure longer range, more survivable Navy operations in a contested logistics environment thereby improving the combat ship fleets operations in a near-peer conflict.

The C-130J program remains the only active U.S. airlifter production line and the longest continuously running military production line in history. The current C-130J Super Hercules is the most capable tactical airlifter in the world. By design, the C-130J provides significant

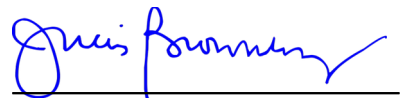
operational and support savings, more operational capability per aircraft, lower life cycle costs, common logistics and training support, and improved active duty and air reserve component interoperability. A stable C-130J production line supporting current and future validated DoD requirements is the best approach to preserving the 380 suppliers across 36 states that support the 27,200 direct and indirect jobs, yielding more than \$3.7 billion of total economic impact. C-130J production is currently declining from 2020's healthy rate of 24+ aircraft per year down to 20 per year, and only continued adds can keep it from falling further. The previous strong production rates were a direct result of MYP-III as well as 64 critical bipartisan adds during FY2017-2023 Congressional appropriations cycles. A significant drop in production over the next three years could dramatically increase C-130J pricing, undermine national security and that of our allies at a dangerous time in world affairs, and erode the strength of the national supplier base when many future requirements remain unfilled.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress



Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



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Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



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A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Member of Congress



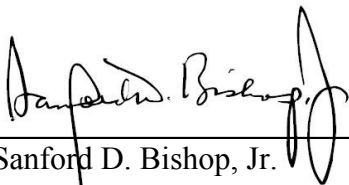
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



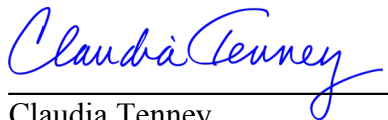
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Marcus J. Molinaro  
Member of Congress



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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



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Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



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Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress



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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



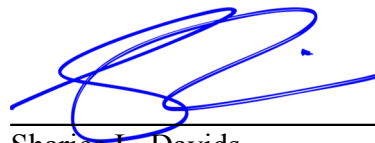
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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



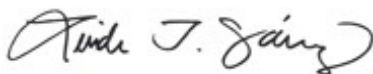
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Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



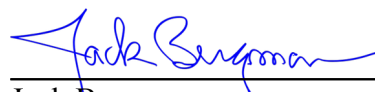
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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress




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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



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Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



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Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



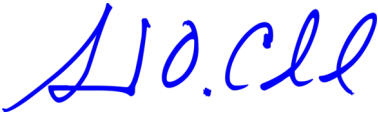
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



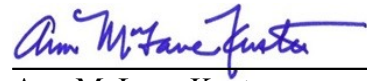
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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



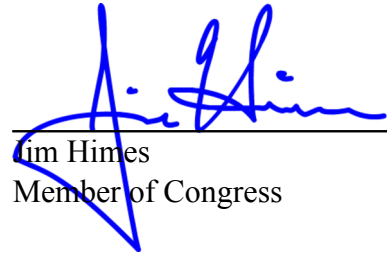
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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Brandon Williams  
Member of Congress



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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



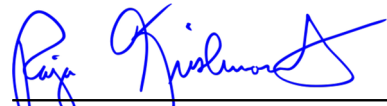
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Anthony D'Esposito  
Member of Congress



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Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Donald G. Davis  
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Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



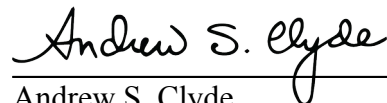
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French Hill  
Member of Congress



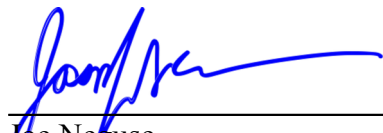
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Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



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Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



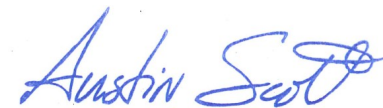
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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



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Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



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Mike Collins  
Member of Congress



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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



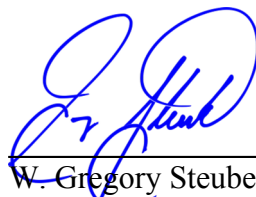
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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress



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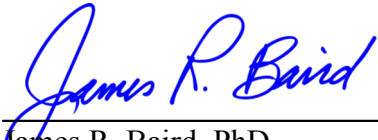
W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress





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James R. Baird, PhD  
Member of Congress



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Cory Mills  
Member of Congress