

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2024

Lt. General Michael A. Loh
Director, Air National Guard
1636 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Lieutenant General Loh:

As members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, we write to express our strong support for the placement of the KC-46 aircraft at the 128th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) located at General Mitchell Field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

With its strategic location, upgraded facilities, and highly skilled personnel, the 128th ARW is the ideal location for the placement of the KC-46 aircraft.

The 128th ARW has an array of capabilities and assets including nearly 900 personnel, a commander responsible for the combat employment of its ten KC-135 Stratotankers, upgraded fuel storage facilities, and plans for a pipeline tap and microgrid project. These existing and future assets ensure that the 128th ARW remains on the leading edge of aerial refueling operations in support of critical missions domestically and abroad. The 128th ARW also has a myriad of modern amenities like an Alert Facility, Small Air Terminal, and a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, which are crucial for maintaining operational readiness and providing top-tier support to our service members.

In addition to these capabilities, the 128th ARW is strategically located in the Northern Tier base which enables the unit to play a vital role in Homeland Defense and bolster Global Reach through polar refueling routes over Canada and west towards the Indo-Pacific. This location also offers ample access to local training airspace, including engagements with the 115th Fighter Wing, based at Truax Field in Madison and Volk Field in Camp Douglas. The 128th ARW's location allows for seamless integration and exploitation of KC-46 5th generation avionics architecture, ensuring optimal performance and readiness.

Upgrading the 128th to include the KC-46 enjoys overwhelming support from community leaders and local officials. This widespread support underscores the unit's integral role in the community and the significant benefits that the new aircraft would bring to the region.

The Wisconsin Air National Guard and the 128th ARW have a long and distinguished history of serving both the people of Wisconsin and the United States with excellence. The men and women of this Wing fully embrace the importance of the KC-46's role in modernizing the Air Force's tanker fleet and are prepared to take on this mission. We firmly believe that the strategic location, operational capabilities, and community support merits your support for hosting the new KC-46 aircraft at the 128th ARW.

Sincerely,



BRYAN STEIL
Member of Congress



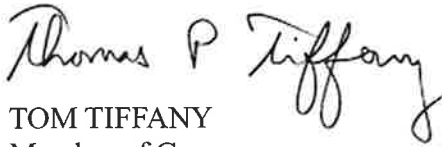
GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



TOM TIFFANY
Member of Congress



SCOTT FITZGERALD
Member of Congress



DERRICK VAN ORDEN
Member of Congress

CC: Mr. Frank Kendal III, Secretary of the Air Force