

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

August 11, 2021

The Honorable Frank Kendall III  
Secretary  
United States Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330

Charles Q. Brown, Jr.  
General, United States Air Force  
Chief of Staff  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Mr. Secretary and General Brown:

We write today to express our strong support for the C-130 mission at the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing.

Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, the 133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing has been a model for recruitment, retention, and mission readiness since its inception in 1921. The Wing's C-130 aircrafts have been essential to accomplishing United States Air Force and Air National Guard missions, including leading the way in aeromedical evacuations since 1961. This unit's airlift capacity is also essential to Homeland Security responses to wildfires, hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters. In addition to these achievements, the Wing has a Contingency Response Flight designed to meet national security objectives in the arctic established in the National Defense Strategy.

The 133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing's location at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, one of America's largest airline hubs, allows it to support personnel strength and fill performance percentages that are among the best in the nation. The Wing can rapidly deploy to provide critical care while transporting injured between medical treatment facilities, along with providing support for domestic, humanitarian, and deployed combat operations.

In light of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing's achievements, and its strategically important location within Minnesota, we are concerned about the proposed reduction of the C-130 fleet between fiscal years 2020 and 2025, which would directly impact the 133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing. This decision was made prior to the release of the 2020 Mobility Capability and Requirements Study and without a fair and transparent basing process. While the proposed Cyber Warfare Wing is an important mission, and one that Minnesota is positioned to support in addition to the C-130 flying mission, we are not willing to sacrifice the tactical lift capability that the C-130 wing brings to Minnesota.

The Minnesota delegation urges you to allow the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing to continue the C-130 mission that it has so successfully fulfilled for over a half century.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress