

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chair
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

After nearly 40 years, the United States Air Force is on the brink of receiving a new aerial refueling tanker – the KC-46A Pegasus. This is a welcomed development for the Nation’s warfighters, and we ask for your support in the Fiscal Year 2019 defense bills.

As you know, the Air Force is replacing the current tanker fleet of Eisenhower-era KC-135s and Reagan-era KC-10s. These aircraft have been the cornerstone of the refueling mission, but the advanced age of the KC-135s has begun to undermine the fleet’s readiness and availability. The Air Force requires the multi-functional capability that the KC-46A will offer. The new platform will provide aerial refueling to U.S. and coalition aircraft via a more modern refueling boom and hose and drogue systems. It will bring the latest tools to detect, avoid, defeat and survive threats, and it can deploy worldwide in any operational environment, designed to transport not just fuel but cargo, passengers, and patients while performing aeromedical evacuation missions.

As the Committees consider annual authorization and appropriations, we respectfully urge you to support the procurement of 18 tankers. The defense Committees have been a steward of taxpayer funding during this program’s development under a fixed price contract. The Committees can support the Air Force even further by maintaining steady procurement in this fiscal year.

Our nation’s tanker fleet is the cornerstone of any operation that requires aerial assets. However, the current, aging fleet is in dire need of both new and additional assets, and we ask for your continued strong support for KC-46A tankers in the Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Authorization and Appropriations bills. We look forward to working with you throughout the year on this issue of national security. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan

Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

Chris Collins

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist

Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Denny Heck

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins

Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Steve Knight

Steve Knight
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Paul Cook

Paul Cook
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Esty

Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones

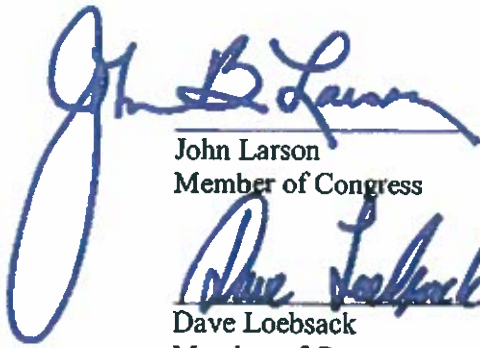
Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Peter T. King

Peter T. King
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster

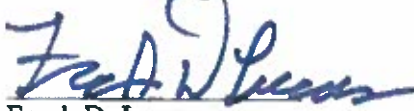
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Thomas MacArthur
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Roger W. Marshall
Member of Congress



Brian J. Mast
Member of Congress



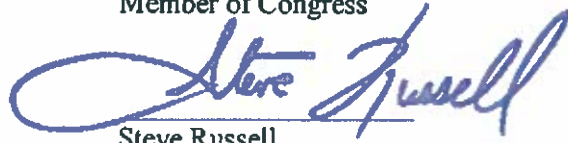
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Steve Russell
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

