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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2012

Secretary Michael B. Donley
Department of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Secretary Donley:

For generations, Southwestern Pennsylvania has played an integral role in defense of our nation.

From the steel mills that provided the material for the Allied Forces in World War II to the cutting-edge medical research helping to heal our returning wounded warriors, Southwestern Pennsylvania continues to help America's Armed Forces fulfill its mission in unique and exciting ways.

But our region's greatest military asset remains its people. There are over 168,000 active duty soldiers, reservists, guardsmen, and veterans who call this region home. I urge you to give special consideration to the future of the 911th Airlift Wing as the Department of the Air Force prepares its Fiscal Year 2013 Force Structure Agreement and Budget.

The 911th Airlift Wing is uniquely situated to respond to any Air Force mission whether the endeavor is international or domestic in scope. The base has ample room for expansion, is less than two hours' flight time to East Coast cities, and has access to four 10,000 plus-foot runways, which are significantly larger than other comparable bases. The 911th is also adjacent to the 171st Air National Guard refueling wing, which houses 16 KC135T Stratotankers.

Alongside the 171st and the 99th/316th Army Reserve, the 911th Airlift Wing is one of three military installations located near the Pittsburgh International Airport. Together, these bases employ more than 5,000 civilian and military personnel, bring hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy, and train tens of thousands of reservists and guardsmen in the tri-state area who are ready and willing to serve our country. The region's military presence will soon grow when the Navy Operational Support Center completes a \$13 million relocation project to be near the three aforementioned bases. Also, the Pentagon will soon break ground on a new \$17 million commissary, and an expanded Post Exchange is in the planning stages.

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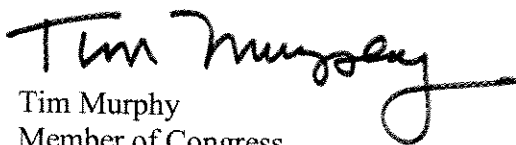
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During past force realignments, local elected officials made every effort to respond to and accommodate the Pentagon's needs. For instance, in 2005 the Allegheny County Airport Authority agreed to make additional space available if needed to expand the 911th into a super-squadron capable of housing 16 C-130 Hercules aircraft. Before any decisions are made regarding force realignment moving forward, I ask for an immediate opportunity to discuss these matters with you in further detail.

Southwestern Pennsylvania and the 911th Airlift Wing retain unique attributes that are absolutely essential for the Air Force Reserve to continue its mission in the 21st century. I look forward to discussing these matters with you in further detail as soon as possible. My scheduler Ashleigh Kazmeraski, who can be reached at (202) 225-2301, will be calling your office to arrange a time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress