## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2024

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Frank Kendall III Secretary Department of the Air Force 1670 Air Force Pentagon Washington, DC 20330

We write regarding the 134th Air Refueling Wing's proposal to make McGhee Tyson Air National Guard (ANG) Base the 7<sup>th</sup> Main Operating Base (MOB) for KC-46 Pegasus.

The dedicated personnel at McGhee Tyson ANG Base in Tennessee have steadfastly served the United States for over 68 years and have established themselves as one of the most decorated air refueling units in the history of the U.S. Air Force having achieved 16 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. Tennessee's 134th Air Refueling Wing boasts over \$200M of infrastructure improvements and over 100 percent end strength growth over the last decade making them uniquely qualified to receive and employ the KC-46.

Further, we understand that the ANG currently makes up approximately 40 percent of the U.S. Air Force's KC-135 air refueling capability. This selection also pursues proportional distribution of next generation air refueling capability within the ANG. McGhee Tyson ANG Base/134th Air Refueling Wing is a cost-effective solution with the right airmen, with decades of proven experience in the refueling mission, and is the right choice as MOB 7 for the KC-46 and for the U.S. Air Force.

Please give all due consideration to this request. Should you have any questions or need more information do not hesitate to contact our staff.

Sincerely,

Marsha Blackburn

**United States Senator** 

Chuck Fleischmann Member of Congress Bill Hagerty

**United States Senator** 

Mark E. Green, M.D. Member of Congress

Diana Harshlanger

Diana Harshbarger Member of Congress

John Rose

Member of Congress

Andy Ogles

Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Member of Congress

Tim Burchett
Member of Congress

Scott DeJarlais, M.D. Member of Congress

David Kustoff

Member of Congress