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United States Senate

December 4, 2018

The Honorable Heather Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force
U.S. Department of Defense
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

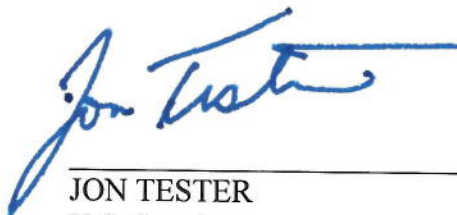
Dear Secretary Wilson:

I write today in regards to the Air Force's future strategic basing decision to stand up an additional Air National Guard Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) in 2021. As I understand it, the Air Force is considering our Montana Air National Guard's (MANG) 120th Airlift Wing in Great Falls, Montana as a potential location to base this new unit.

The 120th has the current operational mission and infrastructure required and is well equipped to facilitate the bed down of a new Aeromedical readiness mission. I am confident the location of Great Falls, Montana is key to meeting and exceeding the Air Force's many mission factors that are weighed and measured during the strategic basing process. With recent authorization and funding for a new aircraft apron at the 120th and our existing infrastructure to bed down a new squadron with their associated personnel and equipment, MANG is the perfect location for this AES unit because it has the potential for the Air Force to execute the decision without significant investments in MILCON funding as with minimal investments in facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization. Additionally, the 120th is geographically an optimal northern-tier location to fill a strategic AES mission need for the Northwestern region of the country, and is located in a community with the right mix of capacity and compatibility of qualified medical professionals for such a mission.

I thank you for your ongoing leadership, and hope you will consider the state of Montana as a future home for the next Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. I look forward to hearing from you as we continue the strategic basing process.

Sincerely,



JON TESTER
U.S. Senator

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