

United States Senate

May 31, 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 concerning the urgent need for additional aircraft apron space for the Montana Air National Guard's 120th Air Lift Wing in Great Falls, Montana. Following our exchange during the recent Air Force Budget Posture Hearing before the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I am particularly concerned about the timing of this project's planned inclusion in the Air Force's fiscal year 2023 Military Construction (MILCON) plan.

At the time of the Great Falls, Montana conversion from F-15 aircraft to C-130 aircraft, the ramp was not adequate, but it was within acceptable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards. Recently modified FAA parameters make the parking situation for the unit's eight C-130 aircraft on the existing ramp particularly difficult. The Air National Guard (ANG) has expressed the best way to resolve and alleviate this impediment is to construct additional ramp space.

The ANG MILCON program includes the most critical projects to meet their enterprise mission requirements within these current fiscal constraints. The project to construct additional apron space at Great Falls, Montana is a high priority requirement for the ANG and has progressed through design status as it is now a candidate for the annual ANG MILCON unfunded priority list as their fifth priority.

I would like to see the Air Force make this project a higher priority in its overall MILCON plan. I therefore request you provide me with a way forward to ensure the successful completion of our C-130 apron project well in advance of the current fiscal year 2023 programmed timeline. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



JON TESTER
U.S. Senator