Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2011

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

Dear Secretary Donley:

As members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation, we write to express our strong support for basing the Light Mobility Aircraft (LiMA) mission at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL), New Jersey. As you move forward with the strategic basing and bed down process decision for this critical national security asset, we believe that the best, most strategic, cost-effective, and logical location for LiMA continues to be in New Jersey at America's premier joint warfighting and air mobility center of excellence and training base. There is no doubt that JB MDL is the ideal military installation for this important mission.

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst far exceeds the objective basing criteria for the Light Mobility Aircraft and has the lowest operating costs of the installations currently under final consideration. Airspace access will be critical to the LiMA mission and JB MDL offers unparalleled airspace opportunities with two fully operating military airfields inside the confines of the JB MDL installation itself, as well as access to airspace over the Atlantic Ocean and at Warren Grove Training Range.

As an Air Mobility Center of Excellence and home to the 621st Contingency Response Wing (CRW), JB MDL leads our nation's ability to meet Combatant Commander needs to train and rapidly deploy personnel to quickly open airfields and establish, sustain, and coordinate air mobility operations in an often austere expeditionary environment. Additionally, the 621st CRW is at the very tip of the spear in developing the building partnership mission set that the Light Mobility Aircraft platform is being acquired to directly support.

The USAF Expeditionary Center, co-located at the Joint Base, is the capstone Mobility Air Force center of excellence for education and training for every facet of air mobility and the LiMA mission's close proximity to it would provide simultaneous resident access to its storehouse of mobility cadre and expertise that no other center or installation can match. Both LiMA initial cadre and potentially foreign national partners would have ready access to the courseware and

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mobility cadre and expertise that no other center or installation can match. Both LiMA initial cadre and potentially foreign national partners would have ready access to the courseware and instruction -- exactly the type of enterprise knowledge the LiMA and Building Partnership missions are designed to impart. Moreover, proximity to the USAF Expeditionary Center would offer equally unmatchable opportunities to the larger mobility enterprise for tactics, techniques and procedural development for employing the Light Mobility Aircraft far into the future.

This outstanding joint installation has the support capacity and facilities needed to ensure the LiMA mission's success, along with ample space for additional military construction. There is strong community support for JB MDL, an excellent Quality of Life (QOL) is enjoyed by those stationed there, and the privatized housing on the installation is among the very finest in the Department of Defense.

We strongly support the Light Mobility Aircraft mission and bed down of the initial LiMA squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. This outstanding installation has the expertise, airspace, facilities, operating ranges, synergy with current missions, training opportunities, and lowest operations costs. To replicate what already exists to support the LiMA bed down at JB MDL at another installation does not make sense from an operational perspective in our current fiscal environment.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this important request in support of America's national security. We look forward to working together with you in support of our nation's warfighters.

Sincerely,

Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Member of Congress

Robert Andrews
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Christopher Smith
Member of Congress

Steve Rothman
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Scott Garrett
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Robert Gates , Secretary of Defense
cc: The Honorable Terry A. Yonkers, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Logistics