

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

May 21, 2021

The Honorable John P. Roth
Acting Secretary of the Air Force
1690 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Roth,

I am writing to express my strong support for the selection of Fairchild Air Force Base as the preferred location for KC-46A Main Operating Base 6.

Home to the world's largest air refueling wing, Fairchild already possesses much of the needed capacity to accommodate the KC-46A aerial refueling tankers. The base provides substantial runway, hangar, and ramp capacity, as well as four squadron operation and maintenance facilities. In addition to being well-equipped to support the operations and logistics requirements of the KC-46A, Fairchild also boasts Air Mobility Command's best small installation-level Force Support Squadron for the second year in a row, ensuring airmen are supported in their personal and family lives too.

Benefitting from its vital location, Fairchild has played a historic role in our nation's aerial refueling effort, and the recapitalization of tankers from the 92nd Air Refueling Wing's current KC-135 fleet will ensure the tradition endures. Fairchild is well-suited to achieve global reach to the Indo-Pacific and Arctic regions, and is a strategic staging platform supporting the rapid global mobility mission with access to a number of aerial refueling routes while minimizing transit fuel consumption.

The Spokane community has shared a strong bond and long history of support with Fairchild Air Force Base dating back to 1942 when local business leaders and citizens raised funds to purchase land just west of the city to encourage the War Department to base there. Since that time, the Spokane community has proudly supported the men and women of Team Fairchild, with the local area offering an exceptional quality of life for airmen and their families.

As you move forward in this basing decision, I respectfully request you give full and fair consideration to Fairchild Air Force Base as the next home to the KC-46A fleet.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator