

THE
NEW ENGLAND
COUNCIL

March 14, 2014

KC-46A EIS Project Manager
NGB/A7AM
Shepperd Hall
3501 Fetchet Avenue
Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762-5157

RE: KC-46A Beddown EIS

To Whom It May Concern:

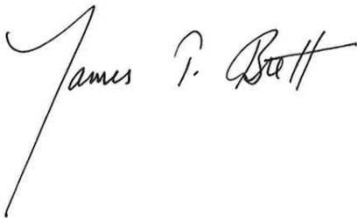
I write today on behalf of The New England Council, the nation's oldest regional business association. The New England Council is an alliance of businesses, academic and health institutions, and public and private organizations throughout New England formed to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the region. The Council is dedicated to identifying and supporting federal public policies and articulating the voice of its membership regionally and nationally on important issues facing New England.

The Council has a long history as an advocate for our region's military installations and believes firmly that these bases are critical not only to our nation's security, but also to our region's economic wellbeing. As such, we strongly support the selection of Pease Air National Guard Base in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as the base for the Air Force's new KC-46A mid-air refueling tankers.

Not only is the base well positioned and prepared to welcome these new aircraft, but the selection of Pease would have tremendous economic and other benefits for our region. First, the selection of Pease would bring much-needed new jobs to our region, including 70 full-time and 50 part-time jobs, addition an additional \$7 million to the local payroll. In addition, if Pease is selected, our region's economy and local communities will benefit from \$45 million in military construction. Of course the selection of Pease would also bring a variety of other benefits to our region, including enhanced FEMA region 1 response and increased cargo and aeromedical evacuation capacity.

The New England Council is proud to add our voice to those of Governor Maggie Hassan and the entire New Hampshire Congressional delegation in supporting the selection of Pease Air National Guard Base as the home of the KC-46A. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (617) 723-4009.

Sincerely,



James T. Brett
President & CEO