

STATE OF MAINE

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND ELEVEN**

**JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE
HONORABLE MICHAEL B. DONLEY,
SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE, AND THE MAINE CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION TO PETITION FOR AN OPEN AND
OBJECTIVE EVALUATION BY THE UNITED
STATES AIR FORCE CONCERNING BASING
DECISIONS FOR THE KC-46A REFUELING
TANKER**

WE, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the Honorable Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the United States Air Force, and the Maine Congressional Delegation as follows:

WHEREAS, the Maine Air National Guard 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor, Maine, has served with honor and distinction supporting military contingency operations around the world for over 3 decades; and

WHEREAS, the KC-46A is the United States Air Force's next generation aerial refueling tanker; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Air National Guard accounts for over 400 full-time and over 700 part-time traditional jobs with an annual economic impact on Maine of over \$100,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the first military aircraft over New York City on September 11, 2001 formed a combat air patrol anchored by a tanker from the Maine Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the 101st Air Refueling Wing has had personnel and aircraft on alert for immediate launch to ensure national security 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year since November 2001; and

WHEREAS, the 101st Air Refueling Wing has launched more aircraft in support of alert missions than any other Air National Guard tanker unit; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission of 2005 reassigned 2 tanker aircraft to Bangor, Maine, specifically identifying the high volume of missions and aircraft being processed at the 101st Air Refueling Wing; and

WHEREAS, the 101st Air Refueling Wing has processed more jet fuel annually than any other Air National Guard base in the continental United States every year since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the 101st Air Refueling Wing has supported more transient aircraft stops annually than any other Air National Guard base in the continental United States every year since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the 101st Air Refueling Wing location is closer to 2 of the most heavily used refueling tracks in the world, AR-20 for missions coming from or returning to East Coast bases and AR-62 for missions coming from or returning to West Coast bases, than any other air refueling wing location; and

WHEREAS, the 101st Air Refueling Wing enjoys extremely high community support for 24-hour operations with no limitations or restrictions on night, early morning or weekend missions; and

WHEREAS, the 101st Air Refueling Wing has been the unit of choice to support highly classified and presidential missions being refueled over the Northeast; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to urge and petition Secretary Donley and the Maine Congressional Delegation to ensure that the United States Air Force uses all available objective data during basing decisions for the next generation air refueling tanker, the KC-46A; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, call upon the Maine Congressional Delegation to highlight the significant accomplishments of the 101st Air Refueling Wing in its support of United States Air Force missions, with no operational restrictions, launching aircraft immediately when necessary and supporting a high volume of transient military aircraft; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the United States Air Force and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.