

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Frank Kendall  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Secretary Kendall:

We write to request that you consider delaying the divestiture of the T-1A aircraft as the Air Force works to implement its new training curriculum service-wide and awaits delivery of the T-7A training aircraft.

We are strong believers in harnessing new technologies and providing our airmen the very best. However, the implementation of said technologies and delivery of new aircraft often takes more time and capital than first envisioned.

Once the T-1A is divested, prospective mobility pilots will spend much of their training time in simulators and less time flying prior to graduation, a posture that forces significant reliance on the timely maturation of the simulated environment. If these technologies do not mature on schedule, the Air Force will lose any ability to effectively train pilots in a "like-aircraft" to which they will be assigned post-graduation.

Given the recent media reports of further delays in the T-7A program, the T-1A may be the best defense against unforeseen shortfalls that may adversely affect the pilot training pipeline. We request that you consider delaying the divestiture of the T-1A, and remain willing to work with you and others in the Air Force to support you in this endeavor.

Please contact us if we can be of assistance. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



CINDY HYDE SMITH  
United States Senator



ROGER WICKER  
United States Senator



MICHAEL GUEST  
Member of Congress



TRENT KELLY  
Member of Congress

Cc: General Charles Q. Brown, Chief of Staff of the Air Force  
Lieutenant General Brian S. Robinson, Air Education and Training Commander