

HR73 INTRODUCED



1 4LL43R-1

2 By Representatives Starnes, Paschal, Robertson

3 RFD: RULES

4 First Read: 11-Apr-23

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HR_____ URGING THE MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PROTECT ALABAMA'S GLOBAL NATIONAL DEFENSE MISSION BY SUPPORTING FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT TO EXPAND THE AIRCRAFT REFUELING PARKING RAMP FOR THE 117TH AIR REFUELING WING.

WHEREAS, Alabama is the home of the KC-135 Stratotanker, under the command of the 117th Air Refueling Wing, a unit of the Alabama Air National Guard, stationed at Sumpter Smith Air National Guard Base in Birmingham, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the KC-135 Stratotanker provides the core aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 60 years; this unique asset enhances the Air Force's capability to accomplish its primary mission of global reach; it also provides aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and allied nations aircraft; and

WHEREAS, the 117th Air Refueling Wing parking ramp currently houses eight KC-135 Stratotanker (air refuelers); the existing aircraft parking ramp is undersized due to a requirement of a 50' wingtip clearance between parked



HR73 INTRODUCED

26 aircraft to support refueling and defueling operations; and

27 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama and the 117th Air
28 Refueling Wing are able to carry out the Wing's global
29 mission under a temporary parking ramp waiver by the
30 Department of Defense; and

31 WHEREAS, the 117th Air Refueling Wing has a dual chain
32 of command mission (State and Federal), a global presence,
33 and more than \$100 million estimated total of annual
34 economic community impact; and

35 WHEREAS, the newer refueling tanker, KC-46, is an
36 American military aerial refueling and strategic military
37 transport aircraft and is intended to replace the oldest of
38 the United States Air Force's KC-135 Stratotanker fleet,
39 some of which are over 50 years old; and

40 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama and the 117th Air
41 Refueling Wing seek to increase the Wing's military value
42 when it comes to National Defense; and

43 WHEREAS, each year, the National Defense Authorization
44 Act (NDAA) authorizes funding levels and provides
45 authorities for the United States Military and other
46 critical defense priorities, ensuring our troops have the
47 training, equipment, and resources they need to carry out
48 their missions; and

49 WHEREAS, the 117th Air Refueling Wing seeks \$33
50 million in funding from the National Defense Authorization



HR73 INTRODUCED

51 Act to expand its aircraft parking ramp; and

52 WHEREAS, the expansion of the 117th Air Refueling Wing
53 parking ramp would put the State of Alabama in compliance
54 with the requirement of a 50' wingtip clearance between
55 parked aircraft to support refueling and defueling
56 operations and also put our state in the best posture in
57 obtaining the newer refueling tanker, KC-46; now therefore,

58 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
59 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the State of Alabama hereby
60 supports maintaining its global National Defense aircraft
61 refueling tankers mission.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State of Alabama
63 urges the Alabama United States Senators and Alabama United
64 States Representatives to do all they can to secure the
65 needed National Defense Authorization Act funding to expand
66 the aircraft refueling parking ramp for the 117th Air
67 Refueling Wing.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
69 resolution be provided to each member of the United States
70 Senate from Alabama, Tommy Tuberville, and Katie Britt, and
71 each member of the United States Representatives from
72 Alabama, Jerry Carl, Jr., Barry Moore, Mike Rogers, Robert
73 Aderholt, Dale Strong, Gary Palmer, and Terri Sewell.