

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 6, 2013

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20150

Dear Chairman Levin and Ranking Member Inhofe:

As you work with the House of Representatives to develop a final FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, we are writing to request that you to consider including in the Conference Report Section 341 of the House-passed bill regarding Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal.

Section 341 of the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 1960) stipulates that the Secretary of the Air Force may not reduce the force structure at Lajes Air Force Base relative to the force structure at the base as of October 1, 2013 until 30 days after the Secretary of Defense concludes the European Infrastructure Consolidation Assessment and briefs the congressional defense committees regarding this assessment.

Lajes Field is on the Portuguese island of Terceira, part of the nine-island Azores archipelago in the mid-Atlantic, 900 miles west of Lisbon and 2,200 miles east of Washington, D.C. The United States has had a presence in Lajes since World War II, when Portugal allowed the U.S. and Great Britain to combat the Nazi submarine menace off its coast. Today, Lajes remains an important location for support to aircraft transiting to and from the United States.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey


Elizabeth Warren