Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 23, 2026

Lieutenant General David J. Sanford
Director, Defense Logistics Agency
Andrew T. McNamara Building
8725 John J. Kingman Road
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Dear Lieutenant General Sanford,

We write to express concern regarding the condition of Kingsley Field's jet fuel facilities and urge the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to move forward with construction of new jet fuel facilities needed to keep our Airmen safe and ensure the 173rd Fighter Wing remains mission ready.

Kingsley Field is home to the 173rd Fighter Wing of the Oregon Air National Guard. It is the largest employer in Klamath County and provides an indispensable economic foundation for the community. Kingsley Field has a total annual economic impact of $232 million, has created over 3,000 jobs, and has an annual payroll of $85 million. For many families in Klamath County, the base is a source of stable, good-paying jobs, and its long-term success depends on infrastructure that is safe and able to support future missions.

Currently, the jet fuel facilities are non-compliant, unsafe, and unable to support future flying missions. These facilities were originally built in 1958 and have received no major upgrades since. The facilities also violate numerous Department of Defense, environmental, and building regulations. There are over 60 documented electrical code violations; the receipt pump house frequently floods, creating electrocution and explosion hazards. The current offloading facilities place commercial fuel trucks within 200 feet of operating aircraft parking aprons without physical protection, leaving aircraft and other military assets more vulnerable to attacks.

Kingsley Field has relied on temporary fixes after more than 35 years of deferred maintenance. These hazardous and unpredictable working conditions are unacceptable for our Airmen and negatively impact the 173rd Fighter Wing's ability to remain mission capable. We strongly urge you to prioritize the construction of a new, fully compliant jet fuel receiving pump house and a reliable truck resupply point at Kingsley Field. This project is ready for immediate execution and will support the base's new F-35A Fighter Training Unit. Our Airmen and the Klamath Falls community deserve facilities that meet basic safety standards.

We were recently informed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will execute the fuel project and that DLA is currently pursuing the contracting action and expects the project to begin in the first quarter of fiscal year 2027. While this is welcome progress, the serious safety and mission-readiness concerns at Kingsley Field require continued urgency.

We strongly urge DLA to expedite the contracting process and execute this project on schedule, without further delay. We also request an update on the project's status, including its place among DLA's construction priorities and any support needed from Congress to ensure timely execution. Please continue to provide regular updates as the project progresses.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure the 173rd Fighter Wing has the safe, modern infrastructure it needs.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress