

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives, 6th District of Missouri  
Graves District Office  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Dear Representative Graves,

On behalf of the City of St. Joseph, Missouri, I am writing to respectfully request your support for the 139th Airlift Wing's proposed construction of a new aircraft parking apron and associated taxiways at Rosecrans Memorial Airport. The City of St. Joseph stands firmly behind this critical infrastructure investment and urges your office to champion its prioritization and full funding through the congressional appropriations process.

The 139th Airlift Wing has been an enduring and vital partner to St. Joseph and the surrounding region for decades. The men and women of the Wing serve our nation with distinction, and their presence at Rosecrans Memorial Airport is a cornerstone of our community's identity, our regional economy, and our national defense. It is from this place of deep partnership and shared purpose that the City offers its wholehearted support for this project.

### **Operational Necessity and Mission Readiness**

The 139th Airlift Wing's current aircraft parking apron is situated on the south end of Rosecrans Memorial Airport, adjacent to the civilian apron. This configuration has created persistent and documented security vulnerabilities, including numerous restricted area incursions by civilian aircraft over the years, a risk that is incompatible with the Wing's designation as a Priority Level 3 asset. These security deficiencies have been formally identified through EPRM assessment and are tied to DTRA MAA Benchmark standards for protection planning and aviation protection.

The Wing is currently executing a base-wide transition from the south end of the airfield to the north end, a transition that has been approved specifically to address antiterrorism and force protection concerns, operational inefficiencies, and chronic flood risk. Approximately one-third of the Wing's facilities have been successfully relocated to date. The construction of a new aircraft parking apron on the north end is the next critical step in completing this transition. Without it, the Wing's aircraft, personnel, and mission capabilities will remain unnecessarily exposed.

### **Community and Economic Significance**

The 139th Airlift Wing is one of the most significant economic drivers in the St. Joseph metropolitan area. The Wing's presence supports hundreds of full-time and part-time military jobs, sustains an extensive network of local contractors and suppliers, and contributes substantially to the tax base and consumer economy of our region. The Wing's C-130 aircraft and its mission sets, including the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center (AATTC) bring additional personnel, training activity, and federal investment to our community on a continuous basis.

A modern, properly configured aircraft parking apron is not merely a facility improvement, it is the foundation upon which the Wing's entire flying mission rests. Aircraft maintenance, generation, recovery, and the loading and off-loading of passengers and cargo all depend on a safe, secure, and adequate apron. The City of St. Joseph recognizes that the Wing's ability to execute its daily training sorties and its operational missions in support of the Army, Marines, and Air Force depends directly on having this infrastructure in place.

### **Alignment with City Priorities and the Airport Master Plan**

The City of St. Joseph, as the owner and operator of Rosecrans Memorial Airport, has a direct and vested interest in the long-term development and success of the installation. The Wing's northward base transition aligns with the Airport's long-term development goals and planning efforts. The proposed apron construction is consistent with responsible airfield development, and the City supports the Wing's commitment to designing and constructing this facility in accordance with FAA Advisory Circulars, DoD Unified Facilities Criteria, and applicable antiterrorism and force protection standards.

The City further notes that the proposed project falls outside the 100-year floodplain, confirming its suitability as a permanent installation asset and its alignment with sound land use and infrastructure planning principles.

### **Conclusion**

The City of St. Joseph wholeheartedly endorses the 139th Airlift Wing's request for funding to construct a new aircraft parking apron and associated taxiways at Rosecrans Memorial Airport. This project is operationally necessary, fiscally sound, strategically important, and vital to the safety and security of both the Wing's personnel and assets and the broader community. We respectfully call upon your office to advocate for full funding of this project and to lend your voice to ensure it receives the congressional attention it deserves.

The City of St. Joseph is proud to stand alongside the 139th Airlift Wing and will continue to be a committed partner in supporting the Wing's mission and the men and women who carry it out. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if additional information or supplemental materials will be of assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "151 Mike Schumacher".

### **Mike Schumacher**

City Manager

City of St. Joseph, Missouri

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## ST. JOSEPH Chamber of Commerce

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April 30, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

On behalf of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce and the business community we represent, I am writing in strong support of the Missouri Air National Guard's proposed Military Construction (MILCON) project to construct a new aircraft parking apron at Rosecrans Memorial Airport for the 139th Airlift Wing.

The 139th Airlift Wing is a cornerstone of the St. Joseph economy and a vital contributor to the strength and stability of our region. The Wing supports hundreds of jobs, generates significant economic activity, and sustains a broad network of local businesses, contractors, and suppliers. Its ongoing operations, including the Weapons Instructor Course and the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center, bring consistent federal investment and personnel into our community.

This project represents the next critical step in the Air National Guard's transition to the north end of the airfield, an effort already underway to improve operational efficiency, enhance security, and position the installation for long-term success. A modern, properly configured aircraft parking apron is essential infrastructure that supports daily operations, ensures mission readiness, and provides the foundation for continued growth.

This kind of investment shows a long-term commitment to the 139th Airlift Wing and to St. Joseph. It strengthens an operation that already plays an important role in our local economy and helps ensure it remains a stable presence for years to come.

The Chamber strongly supports this project as both a strategic military investment and a meaningful economic driver for northwest Missouri. We respectfully encourage your support for full funding of this important initiative.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your support of Missouri's military installations and the communities that stand alongside them.

Sincerely,

Natalie Hawn  
President & CEO



