

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2014

Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20030-1670

Dear Secretary James:

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the possible removal of Air Force One (Boeing VC-137C SAM 26000) from the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) in Dayton, Ohio. As you may know, the NMUSAF, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, houses the VC-137C President Johnson used during his presidency. According to recent reports, the LBJ Presidential Library has expressed interest taking the aircraft from the NMUSAF and incorporating it into part of an exhibit in Austin, Texas. I would ask for your consideration in keeping this aircraft at its current home at the NMUSAF.

The NMUSAF is the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world and is well deserving of such an iconic piece of aviation history. Dayton is the birthplace of the Wright Brothers and has a long history of supporting the Air Force. Located within one day's drive of sixty-percent of the United States, the museum draws millions of visitors annually and provides important educational opportunities for all who visit.

Occupying merely fourteen acres, the LBJ Library lacks the necessary facilities to house an aircraft the size of Air Force One. Additionally, significantly fewer visitors would be exposed to the aircraft if it were removed from the NMUSAF and relocated to the LBJ Presidential Library. Currently, the Library receives approximately 125,000 visitors each year, compared to the NMUSAF's more than 1.3 million annual visitors. Moving this aircraft from the NMUSAF is a mistake that would deprive the public of access to such an important piece of American history.

Thank you for your review of this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress