

Honorable Michael D. Griffin  
Under Secretary of Defense  
Research & Engineering  
The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301

June 19, 2019

Dear Dr. Griffin,

The Department of Defense's renewed focus on the development of hypersonic weapons and defense systems is an important initiative we fully support. Ohioans have a long history and continued interest in supporting cutting edge aeronautic technologies. Given the military's immediate need for improved test facilities, we wish to emphasize our strong support for the near-term opportunity available to re-launch and modernize the Hypersonic Tunnel Facility (HTF) located at the NASA Glenn Research Center's Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, Ohio.

Plum Brook Station's Hypersonic Tunnel Facility (HTF), is the nation's first large-scale, non-vitiated, hypersonic propulsion test asset. Located on a 6,400-acre campus, the Plum Brook Station presents a government-controlled, remotely located property that is ideal to safely test propulsion systems under the extreme conditions necessary to sustain hypersonic flight. At the same time, the campus is easily accessible to airports, Lake Erie ports and companies, military installations, and educational institutions around the country currently engaged in, and others interested in, training the workforce for America's hypersonic programs.

HTF offers the Department of Defense greater capacity to conduct research, testing, and technical risk reduction for hypersonic weapon systems development. Specifically, the facility provides capabilities for long test durations (5 minutes) at Mach 5, 6, and 7 flight conditions. It does this by creating high-temperature clean air, which is preferable to facilities that create hot air through combustion.

The team responsible for activity to mothball HTF took great care to preserve the facility, which has a long history of cutting-edge research. Prompt investments to restore the site will expedite testing and development of hypersonic weapon systems.

Thank you for your attention to this defense need and how Ohio's infrastructure and people can support the modernization of America's national security aeronautic capabilities.

Sincerely,

Marcy Kaptur  
U.S. Representative

Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator

Rob Portman  
U.S. Senator

Michael R. Turner  
U.S. Representative

Tim Ryan  
U.S. Representative

David P. Joyce  
U.S. Representative

Bill Johnson  
U.S. Representative

Robert E. Latta  
U.S. Representative

Anthony Gonzalez  
U.S. Representative

Marcia L. Fudge  
U.S. Representative

Steve Chabot  
U.S. Representative

Joyce Beatty  
U.S. Representative

Jim Jordan  
U.S. Representative

Brad R. Wenstrup  
U.S. Representative

Steve Stivers  
U.S. Representative

Troy Balderson  
U.S. Representative