



## United States Senate

September 9, 2020

The Honorable Barbara M. Barrett  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Secretary Barrett,

Given the devastating wildfires currently facing California, I write to ask that the Air Force do everything possible to resolve any delays in modifying and transferring the seven C-130 air tankers for fighting wildfires in California.

The *John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019* (Public Law 115-232) authorized the modification and transfer of seven HC-130H aircraft to the State of California for firefighting purposes. Air assets are a crucial part of California's firefighting capabilities, vital to both preventing the spread of fires early on and containing major fires that have grown out of control.

My staff has learned that there will be at least a six-month delay in the delivery schedule because of contracting issues. This is especially troubling, since wildfires have already burned a record 2.2 million acres so far this year, and we have only just entered our traditional Fall fire season.

California needs these additional C-130 aircraft as soon as possible, and I ask that you do everything possible to ensure that there are no further delays. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance or have your staff contact Rachel Bombach on my staff at (202) 224-1226.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

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