



Ms. Theresa Gasper  
P.O. Box 340428  
Beavercreek, OH 45434-0428

September 27, 2018

Ms. Gasper:

I wanted to convey my disappointment regarding your remarks at a "Meet the Candidates" event last week when you said Wright-Patterson Air Force Base "is an enduring base. It's never going to close-- unless somebody blows it up." I am disheartened that you have not retracted your remarks, nor issued a formal apology to the more than 27,000 Service members and DoD Civilians who work and live at Wright-Patterson AFB.

As a former commander at Wright-Patterson AFB, I am dismayed someone seeking office does not recognize what this base represents for all Ohioans. Wright-Patterson AFB (WPAFB) is a critical part of our country, state, and our community. The importance of the missions supported by this installation are essential in keeping our country secure and strong in this uncertain world. WPAFB is about mission but moreover it is about the workers - the very people you want to represent. These are the people that live, work, and raise families in the Miami Valley and beyond. Understanding that our way of life is intricately connected to the base - the quality of our schools, our neighborhoods, our economy, our ability to provide services for our citizens are largely due to the strength of WPAFB. Protecting the base from the loss of missions allows us to maintain our way of life in the Miami Valley.

Your flippant comments regarding Wright-Patterson AFB not being at risk during a potential BRAC, and any discussion otherwise is "fear-mongering" is irresponsible and misleading. Ohio may have gained approximately 1,200 jobs at Wright-Patterson AFB in the 2005 BRAC, but a number of missions at WPAFB and throughout the state were in jeopardy had it not been for our Congressional Delegation's diligence. While the base's physical location is likely secure, we are always at risk of losing missions through BRACs and/or internal DoD movements. We need leaders who recognize this, and are ready to stand up for our war fighters and their families stationed in and around the installation. If you ask me, not acknowledging the criticality of WPAFB to our community and state is the very definition of ignorance.

Any person running for office in this area needs to understand WPAFB's value to our country, state and community. WPAFB is more than a location - it represents our neighbors, family, friends and a way of life. I encourage you to keep this in mind when you discuss WPAFB's role in Ohio and the Miami Valley.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Perales". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Representative Rick Perales  
Ohio House District 73