WHEREAS, the Air Force Component conducts aerial refueling missions with KC-135s which are over 50 years of age and KC-10s which are 39 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Air Reserve Component mobility aircraft, operate worldwide in support of the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployed United States forces and various contingencies, all of which are in range of the low to medium infrared missiles threat; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of their missions is flown in areas where one of the primary threats encountered is a widely proliferated array of shoulder-fired infrared missiles; and

WHEREAS, modernization of the defensive countermeasure systems on the aircraft supporting these missions will greatly increase combat capability and survivability; and

WHEREAS, the Air Reserve Component leadership supports the modernization of defensive systems as a top priority to fulfill combat requirements; and

WHEREAS, equitable defensive capabilities are necessary across the total force’s equipment inventory to ensure seamless integration of the Reserve Components in the fight; and

WHEREAS, installation of this capability to protect the F-16, KC-135, KC-10 and C-17 aircraft from current and future infrared threats; and

WHEREAS, the Air Reserve Component aerial refueling tankers are tasked to operate in environments of increasing levels of infrared missile threat complexity and lethality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ROA, chartered by Congress, urge the Congress to authorize and appropriate funds to provide countermeasures to protect aircraft and personnel during takeoffs, landings, and low altitude refueling missions.