

JOHN JAMES  
10TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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JAMES.HOUSE.GOV

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise  
Majority Leader of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Carter  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, Related Agencies  
H-307 the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

I write to express my strong support for the Air Force's continued commitment to Selfridge Air National Guard Base (ANGB) and the state of Michigan. We are especially grateful for President Trump's decisive directive assigning the F-15EX fighter aircraft to Selfridge, and we stand firmly behind the Department of the Air Force as it carries out this mission.

This effort is about more than one base, it is about advancing President Trump's "golden dome" vision to shield America from every threat, and his "peace through strength" doctrine that secures stability through unmatched military readiness. The Selfridge runway project directly supports both goals. By ensuring that the F-15EX mission has the infrastructure it needs, we strengthen our deterrence, protect our northern border, and guarantee that America's air dominance remains unquestioned.

Selfridge ANGB is a national treasure. As the only Air National Guard installation with a 100 percent federally owned flightline, it offers unmatched operational flexibility, a strategic location near our northern border, and proven joint-force integration with the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, and Customs and Border Protection. Its position along the Great

Lakes provides unparalleled access to airspace and rapid response capabilities essential to both homeland defense and national security.

Furthermore, Selfridge's proximity to major transportation corridors, including interstate highways, railways, and maritime routes, allows for swift logistical support and mobilization in times of crisis. It is also situated near multiple critical infrastructure assets such as automotive manufacturing hubs, energy grids, and cross-border trade routes. These regional factors make Selfridge the ideal staging point for both continental defense operations and emergency response activities in the Midwest and Great Lakes regions. Additionally, twenty percent of the American and Canadian population is within 500 miles of the base. This unique composition enables seamless interagency collaboration and multiplies the base's ability to serve as a force projection platform for diverse missions, ranging from air superiority, disaster response, and border security.

As the Air Force prepares for the F-15EX basing decision and related transitions, it is essential that the runway extension and infrastructure upgrades at Selfridge move forward without delay. *These improvements are necessary to accommodate next-generation fighters and must be completed prior to the accelerated retirement of the A-10 by the end of Fiscal Year 2026.*

For this reason, I respectfully urge House Leadership to endorse and secure the full \$90 million in funding for the Selfridge runway extension and associated infrastructure upgrades during conference negotiations on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. The Senate took an important step by including partial funding, but anything less than the full amount risks delaying construction timelines and jeopardizing mission readiness. Should a short-term continuing resolution or other interim funding measure be necessary, I further request that the full \$90 million be explicitly included to keep this project on track.

I urge you to make full funding for Selfridge a priority in conference and beyond, as part of our shared commitment to rebuilding American military strength, ensuring readiness, and delivering on President Trump's vision for U.S. air dominance. My office stands ready to support this effort in any way necessary to ensure the timely arrival of the F-15EX at Selfridge.

Thank you for your leadership. I look forward to working together to secure the future of Selfridge ANGB and the security of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John James", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Congressman John James (MI-10)

