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JAMES.HOUSE.GOV

August 6, 2025

Troy E. Meink

Secretary of the Air Force

1670 Air Force Pentagon,

Washington, DC 20330-1670

I write to express our sincere appreciation for the Air Force's continued commitment to Selfridge Air National Guard Base (ANGB) and to the state of Michigan as a whole. We are especially grateful for President Trump's directive to assign the F-15EX fighter aircraft to Selfridge, and we strongly support the Department of the Air Force in fulfilling that mission.

Selfridge ANGB is a uniquely positioned national asset. As the only Air National Guard installation with a 100% federally owned flightline, its operational flexibility, strategic location near the northern border, and joint-force partnerships with the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, and Customs and Border Protection make it indispensable. Its geographic location along the Great Lakes provides critical airspace access and rapid response capabilities that few other installations can match.

As the Air Force considers the tanker transition as well as the next steps in implementing the F-15EX basing decision, my office is committed to helping in any way we can through the legislative process in the 119th Congress. Specifically, we would appreciate the opportunity to support the Air Force in addressing any legislative or interagency coordination needs that may arise.

My office respectfully requests a detailed plan outlining how the Air Force intends to secure funding for the Selfridge runway extension and related infrastructure upgrades necessary to host the F-15EX fleet. We understand that improvements to the runway at the base are required and that this issue must be resolved to fully support the next-generation fighter mission prior to the accelerated A-10 retirement by the end of Fiscal Year 2026. In addition to understanding your potential congressional funding needs, we also request clarification on what steps the Air Force is taking to prioritize or reallocate existing funds to expedite the necessary upgrades independent of the congressional appropriations cycle.

I understand the challenges that come with military construction and budget planning, but we also know the importance of acting swiftly. The longer these infrastructure issues go unresolved, the greater the risk to operational capability, economic impact, and strategic readiness. Selfridge

contributes over \$850 million to Michigan's economy annually and the base plays an integral role in the execution of the Air National Guard's mission to safeguard the homeland.

I am also committed to being a strong partner in this process. Please let us know how our office can be most helpful in advancing this mission in Fiscal Year 2026. We also respectfully request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the runway and infrastructure funding strategy, and how we can work together to ensure the timely and successful arrival of the F-15EX at Selfridge.

Thank you for your leadership and continued service. We look forward to working closely with you and your team to ensure the successful future of Selfridge ANGB and the full execution of President Trump's vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "James" clearly distinguishable.

Congressman John James

