

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

General David L Goldfein  
Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

We write to express our support for the selection of the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (FW) stationed at Truax Air National Guard Base (Truax ANG Base) in Madison, Wisconsin to host the F-35 in conjunction with the United States Air Force's (USAF's) ongoing Strategic Basing Initiative announced on April 12, 2016.

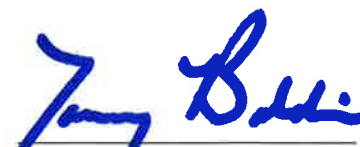
The capabilities and assets of the 115<sup>th</sup> FW and Truax include their unique ability to provide tremendous airspace, that it schedules and controls, over its network of integrated ranges and its unencumbered Military Operational Airspace. The Volk Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) is only 50 miles away from Truax and encompasses Volk Field, Hardwood Range, and Ft. McCoy providing the ability for the deployment of laser and GPS guided munitions, including JDAM. The capabilities of Truax ANG Base and the 115<sup>th</sup> FW in concert with Volk CRTC and the nearby 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling (ARW) in Milwaukee create the rare ability to conduct each of the F-35A mission sets.


In addition to these unique capabilities, the 115<sup>th</sup> FW and Volk Field will host *Northern Lightning Exercise 2016*. Their preeminent capabilities to support the F-35 are validated by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing's (Eglin AFB) intent to fly their own F-35s at this exercise. The focus of this year's Northern Lightning exercise is the integration of a complete tactical interdiction force including 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> generation fighters from the Air National Guard, Air Force, and Navy. Exercise participants will benefit from the capabilities of the 128<sup>rd</sup> Air Control Squadron also based at Volk Field, while concurrently having ready access to the air refueling capabilities of the 128<sup>th</sup> ARW).


We cannot express how proud we are of the men and women who serve in the Wisconsin National Guard. Truax ANG Base and the 115<sup>th</sup> FW are a critical members of the Wisconsin National Guard team and the USAF. We ask your full consideration of the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and Truax ANG Base to host an F-35 Operational Wing mission. Truax ANG Base merits your strong deliberation for selection as one of the two Preferred Alternatives as your Strategic Basing process proceeds.

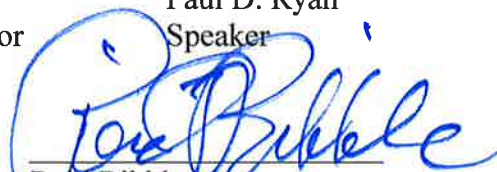
Sincerely,

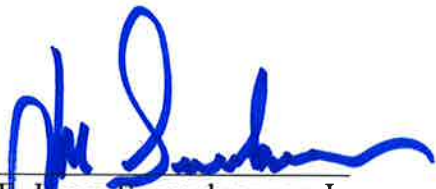
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Johnson  
United States Senator

  
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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

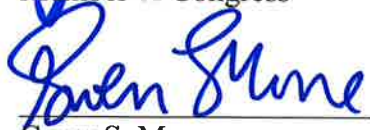
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Member of Congress



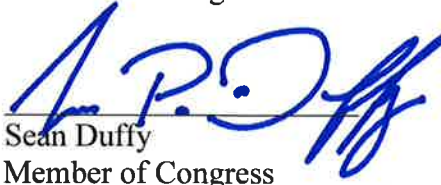
Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress