

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 7th, 2016

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

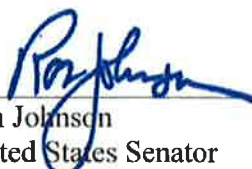
We write to express our support for the selection of the 115th Fighter Wing (FW) stationed at Truax Air National Guard Base (Truax ANG Base) in Madison, Wisconsin to host the F-35 in conjunction with the United States Air Force's (USAF's) ongoing Strategic Basing Initiative announced on April 12, 2016.

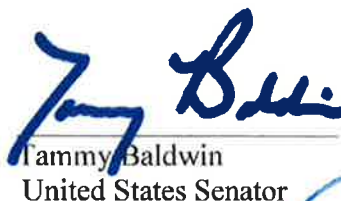
The capabilities and assets of the 115th FW and Truax include their unique ability to provide tremendous airspace, that it schedules and controls, over its network of integrated ranges and its unencumbered Military Operational Airspace. The Volk Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) is only 50 miles 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 115th FW in concert with Volk CRTC and the nearby 128th 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 115th FW and Volk Field will host *Northern Lightning Exercise 2016*. Their preeminent capabilities to support the F-35 are validated by the 33rd 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 4th and 5th generation fighters from the Air National Guard, Air Force, and Navy. Exercise participants will benefit from the capabilities of the 128th Air Control Squadron also based at Volk Field, while concurrently having ready access to the air refueling capabilities of the 128th 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 115th FW are a critical members of the Wisconsin National Guard team and the USAF. We ask your full consideration of the 115th 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.

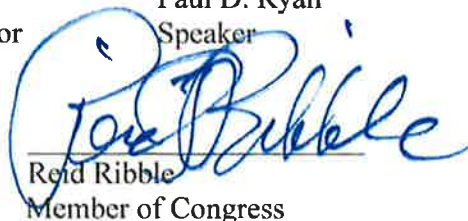
Sincerely,


Ron Johnson
United States Senator


Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


Paul D. Ryan
Speaker


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress


Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



H. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



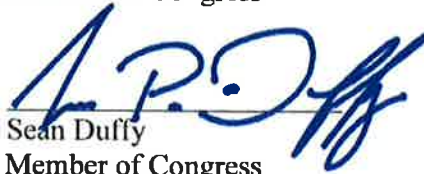
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy
Member of Congress