

July 6, 2017

Brigadier General John D. Slocum  
29553 George Avenue  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, MI 48045

Dear General Slocum:


The membership of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) wishes to voice its support to locate a squadron of F-35A Lightning II aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. SEMCOG, which has a membership of 170 local governments and other entities from the seven-county Southeast Michigan region, has gone on record in support of Selfridge maintaining an ongoing mission at the base.

We are aware that Selfridge is one of five finalists for the eventual location of two F-35 squadrons. We believe that Selfridge is the natural choice for one of those two squadrons. We draw this conclusion based on the following issues:

- Selfridge is the largest Air National Guard Base in the county and one of the original military airfields established in the U.S.
- Selfridge is entirely a military operation; it does not share facilities with private carriers, which is the case with some other locations under consideration. This allows for greater base security.
- Selfridge facilities currently house every branch of the armed services.
- Selfridge is a major Coast Guard station with full rescue capability.
- Selfridge has a wing of KC-135 Stratotankers which will allow for enhanced training requiring refueling.
- Selfridge experiences diverse weather patterns which will allow pilots to be trained to operate in any weather condition.
- Selfridge's 100-year track record for operations is impeccable and we know that will continue should the F-35s be placed in their care.

Selfridge Air National Guard Base has been an important part of the greater Detroit area for a century. Local elected officials from across the region have voiced their complete support for the ongoing operations of the base. The track record of the base speaks for itself. We believe that Selfridge is the best choice for a base of operations for the F-35s.

Sincerely,



Robert Clark  
Chairperson  
SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

cc: US Senator Debbie Stabenow  
US Senator Gary Peters  
Congressman Sander Levin  
Congressman Paul Mitchell  
Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel  
John Paul Rea, Director, Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic  
Development