



July 6, 2017

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

Dear General Slocum:

As the Chief Research Officer at Oakland University, I am pleased to write this letter of support to bring the new F-35A Lightning II to Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Oakland University provides state-of-the-art research facilities and a rich, collaborative environment for our faculty and students in support of their research and educational activities. Our academic bandwidth and assets reach well into Macomb County and we engage in research and development with the defense industry. Oakland University is committed to the highest ethical standards in the conduct of research, which are essential for sustaining an excellent research program that contributes to the well-being of our local, national and global communities.

Our community understands and appreciates the true impact that Selfridge has on our region, our state and our nation. For 100 years, the communities surrounding Selfridge have supported the base. In fact, in 1950 the Mount Clemens Military-Community Relations Committee coordinated local citizen efforts to support the men, women and the base. This committee became the nation's first active and successful military relations committee. Air Force officials took note, and Mount Clemens became a model for other military towns to follow.

In turn, Selfridge has been a staunch community partner as well as a strategic epicenter for mission readiness at home and abroad. Home to all five branches of the armed forces, we recognize the unique and important asset that we share. Nearly 3,000 full-time civilian and military personnel and 3,000 members of the Air and Army National Guard and the Reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces stand ready to defend us.

On behalf of Oakland University, we fully support the continued evolution of base capabilities. Our community stands ready to support any element necessary to beddown the F-35 in Macomb County.

We look forward to sharing good news about the anticipated announcement from the U.S. Air Force with you very soon. If there is anything I can do to provide direct support for this effort, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dr. David A. Stone
Chief of Research

CC: U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator Gary Peters
Congressman Mike Bishop
Governor Rick Snyder
Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel
John Paul Rea, Director, Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development