



July 7, 2017

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

Dear General Slocum:

The Board of Directors of the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce (representing more than 1,200 businesses across Macomb County) is very pleased to write this letter of support to bring the new F-35A Lightning II to Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Macomb County.

The membership of the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce comes from businesses and organizations located within different communities within Macomb County, as well as many others in other neighboring counties. Our core community of Sterling Heights is located within the heart of Macomb County and has a population of more than 132,000, making it the fourth largest community in the state of Michigan. Macomb County is the home of the Defense Corridor of Michigan, and is one of the largest defense industry-based areas in the entire nation.

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 and women 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 the Sterling Heights business community, we fully support the continued evolution of base capabilities and believe that the F-35A is a critical component of that transition. The Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of its membership, fully supports the region's efforts to bring this important F-35 to Selfridge and Macomb County.



We look forward to being able to very shortly share with our membership good news about the anticipated announcement from the U.S. Air Force. If there is anything we can do to provide direct support for this effort, please feel free to contact Chamber President & CEO Melanie Davis at 586.731.5400, x22 or email: mdavis@shrcci.com.

Sincerely,

Melanie Davis, President
Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce
For the Board of Directors

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