

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Chair
Senate Appropriations Military
Construction Subcommittee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Ossoff
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Military
Construction Subcommittee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Boozman and Ranking Member Ossoff,

We write to you to express our strong support for continued investment into critical military construction projects for Selfridge Air National Guard Base to support the planned beddown of 21 F-15EX fighters and 12 KC-46A tankers. Michigan has always stepped up to defend our nation. In World War II, Detroit earned the title “Arsenal of Democracy,” by producing the tanks, airplanes, and equipment that powered the forces of freedom’s victory over fascism and tyranny. Today, that same spirit of grit and innovation lives on at Selfridge.

Selfridge Air National Guard Base is an essential and strategic location for northern border security and homeland defense. Selfridge is a joint military installation and home to many national security assets of the United States, including servicemembers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Selfridge is also a pillar of both the local community in Macomb County and Michigan’s robust defense sector – supporting approximately 5,000 military and civilian jobs and generating an estimated \$850 million in economic impact statewide.

The base’s close proximity to the Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport has aided the recruitment and retention of the highly-qualified, combat-experienced pilots and maintenance personnel for their fighter mission leading to a 95% retention rate and continued end-strength gains.

Selfridge has enjoyed bipartisan support from the Michigan Congressional delegation, state and local leaders, and the Macomb County community to recapitalize the 127th Air Wing's aging A-10 fighters and KC-135 refueling tankers. On January 12, 2024, Selfridge Air National Guard Base was selected by the United States Air Force for a bed down of twelve KC-46A Pegasus tanker aircraft. The tankers, slated to begin arriving in 2029, will replace the base's aging fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers after they retire in 2027.

Following this decision and after years of advocacy, on April 28, 2025, President Trump announced his commitment to base 21 F15-EX fighters at Selfridge. This mission takes advantage of Selfridge's proximity to training ranges, airspace, and premier training exercises, and ensures the Air Force preserves the 127th Air Wing's experienced and capable pilots, crews, and maintainers.

The current and ongoing infrastructure investments at Selfridge ensure the base is properly outfitted to receive the new F-15EX fighters and KC-46A refueling tankers. Governor Whitmer's \$100 million investment in base and runway improvements along with \$28 million secured by the Michigan Congressional delegation for new hangar and maintenance facilities ensure a seamless transition to an advanced fighter.

Given the incoming fighter and tanker missions and the importance of preparing Selfridge to continue to play a critical role in our national security, we respectfully request the full funding necessary for military construction to follow-through on the commitments made and fight to deliver federal investments at Selfridge.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Elissa B. Slotkin
United States Senator