

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 28, 2025

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We appreciate your recent commitment to base a new fighter mission at Michigan's Selfridge Air National Guard Base. 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 is the ideal location for a future fighter mission with the experienced pilots, crews and maintainers, access to world-class exercises and training ranges with state-of-the-art infrastructure. As you highlighted, Selfridge has enjoyed bipartisan support from the Michigan Congressional delegation, state and local leaders and the Macomb County community to recapitalize the 107<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron's A-10 aircraft with an advanced fighter. Your announcement is an important step towards realizing our long-held goal and we are ready to work with you, the Department of Defense and the Air Force to identify and base a new advanced fighter mission at Selfridge.

A future fighter takes advantage of Selfridge's proximity to training ranges, airspace and premier training exercises. The installation has unmatched access to three overland/water Military Operations Areas (MOA) and Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspaces (ATCAA) (to include supersonic) and three weapons delivery (restricted area) ranges for daily operations and large force exercises. The Michigan National Guard annually hosts Exercise Northern Strike which brings over 6,300 participants from across the U.S. and international partners to participate in the largest accredited joint all-domain, live-fire, reserve component readiness exercise in the continental United States. Michigan is also home to Exercise Winter Strike which tests operational readiness in cold-weather conditions. Finally, Michigan is home to the National All-Domain Warfighting Center, the largest contiguous joint service range and airspace complex east of the Mississippi River, providing tremendous training and operational readiness opportunities.

A fighter mission at Michigan's Selfridge Air National Guard Base ensures the Air Force preserves the 107<sup>th</sup> Squadron's experienced and capable pilots, crews and maintainers. Selfridge's close proximity to the Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport has aided the recruitment and retention of the highest quality pilots and maintenance personnel for their fighter mission leading to a 95% retention rate and continued end-strength gains.

Selfridge's current and ongoing infrastructure investments also ensure the base is ideally suited to support a new fighter mission. 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.

The world is facing greater threats than at any time since the end of World War II. It is fitting that during this time of need our country once again turns to Michigan to protect America by placing a new fighter mission at Selfridge. We stand ready to work closely with you and the Department of Defense to make this new mission a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Peters".

Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elissa Slotkin".

Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator