

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Heather Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Secretary Wilson:

We are writing to thank the Air Force for its recent visit to the 125th Fighter Wing and to again express our support for basing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter with Florida's Air National Guard.

As you know, the Florida Air National Guard location at Jacksonville is home to the 125th Fighter Wing, which currently maintains and flies F-15 C/D Eagles. Due to the wing's critical southeastern United States air defense mission and strategic location, we must partner together, in the interest of our national security, to ensure that the 125th FW is equipped with the most capable combat aircraft within the U.S. inventory. As representatives from both SAF/IE and Air Combat Command have now seen, the 125th FW best meets the F-35 basing requirements at the lowest cost to the taxpayer and has unparalleled training infrastructure and airspace.

The City of Jacksonville and the State of Florida have a long history of supporting our military. Due to our nearby and surrounding installations, Northeast Florida has unmatched quality of life opportunities for personnel and their families. Additionally, Jacksonville has uniquely taken great care in creating buffer zones and reducing encroachment issues.

We are confident that your continued review will show that 125th Fighter Wing is highly capable of supporting this fifth-generation fighter platform and that basing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter in Jacksonville applies the right force at the right place. We look forward to your upcoming decision and standby to assist in any further way.

Sincerely,



Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator




Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

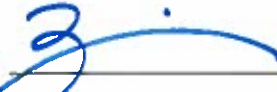

John Rutherford
U.S. Representative



Al Lawson
U.S. Representative



Ron DeSantis
U.S. Representative



Mario Diaz-Balart
U.S. Representative


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
U.S. Representative



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Francis Rooney
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Darren Soto
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Alcee L. Hastings
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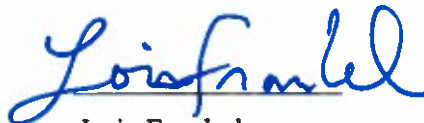
Frederica Wilson
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Daniel Webster
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Bill Posey
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Lois Frankel
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Tom Rooney
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Gus M. Bilirakis
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Vern Buchanan
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Kathy Castor
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