

ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 17-13

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SELECTION OF SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL
GUARD BASE FOR THE F-35 LIGHTNING II FIGHTER**

WHEREAS, the selection of historic Selfridge Air National Guard Base (ANGB) as one of the newest bases for the state-of-the-art F-35 Lightning II, a fifth generation fighter aircraft, is beneficial for the Southeast Michigan region, the entire state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Wing is the host unit at Selfridge ANGB and is a complete global reaching warfighting package highly demanded by combatant commanders and the wing's A-10s, KC-135s and support personnel stand ready to answer any mission call; and

WHEREAS, Selfridge ANGB, with its history of flying fighter aircraft and a supporting community that dates back 100 years, is one of the nation's busiest, most diverse and most advanced military installations as it is a Joint Military Community whose major tenants include the Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan hosts some of the best training airspace and ranges in the Eastern United States with the Alpena Training Center and Grayling Range training complexes covering a vast expanse of Northern Michigan and their electronic warfare ability and low density flight areas are unmatched; all U.S. military services – as well as international partners – leverage these capabilities for training; and

WHEREAS, the enduring fighter mission at Selfridge ANGB provides the continued utilization and training capacity that is the cornerstone of the tremendous joint training capability; and

WHEREAS, the F-35 cooperative engagement capability and sensor fusion technology leverage the cyber and remotely piloted aircraft capabilities of the 100th Attack Wing in Battle Creek to seamlessly integrate readiness, placing both Michigan Air National Guard Wings in the forefront of our nation's defense; and

WHEREAS, compared to the other locations being considered, the area Selfridge ANGB is located in has nearly six times the number of defense sector jobs than the others combined; meets 73 percent of its defense sector demand locally, compared with 20 percent; has the necessary trained talent versus a labor shortage and fulfills 33 percent or more defense contracts, at \$2 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, stationing the F-35 fighter aircraft at Selfridge ensures critical Michigan defense infrastructure and economic viability for the entire region for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, Selfridge ANGB is strategically located near five international, land-border crossings, includes marine access to the Official Aerial Port of Embarkation Center for global trade and commerce, provides efficient flight times to major metropolitan areas and access to regional airport hubs interstates; and

WHEREAS, the F-35 basing decision has economic, infrastructure and future capability implications for all of Michigan and it is in the best interest of the state as well as the nation, both operationally and fiscally, for Selfridge ANGB to be selected as the home of the F-35 Lightning II fighter aircraft.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners supports the F-35 Lightning II fighter aircraft basing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

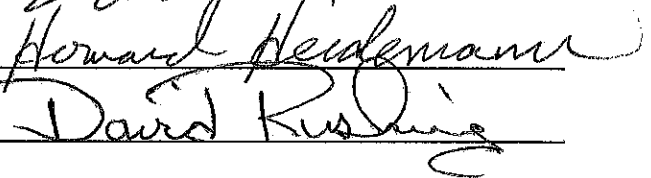
Dated: June 15, 2017

Reviewed and Approved As To Form By:



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