



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

October 29, 2019

The Honorable Barbara Barrett  
Secretary  
United States Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Secretary Barrett,

Please find the attached 2019 Wisconsin Senate Joint Resolution 69 (2019 SJR 69) recognizing the contributions of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and supporting the basing of F-35As at the Truax Air National Guard Base in Madison, Wisconsin.


2019 SJR 69 was adopted by both houses of the Wisconsin State Legislature with overwhelming, bipartisan support. 2019 SJR 69 was adopted by the State Senate on a voice vote on October 8, 2019 and concurred in by the State Assembly on an 87-9 vote on October 10, 2019.

The resolution recognizes the immense pride the state of Wisconsin has for the Airmen of the 115<sup>th</sup> and how they have executed their state and federal missions with excellence over the past 71 years. It also acknowledges the local, regional and statewide economic impact that the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing provides and how the selection for the F-35A mission will continue its \$100 million of economic output and 1,650 in-state jobs as well as the creation of 64 new jobs. The legislation further identifies the significant statewide impact that the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing provides through its complimentary relationships with the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee and the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) at Camp Douglas. Their close proximity to each other further increases the F-35 mission's economic impact for the state of Wisconsin as well as the combat readiness and effectiveness of the Air National Guard. The resolution further acknowledges that the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing has a long history of being a good neighbor in the community and has a positive history of working to mitigate noise impacts on the community. It also notes the state of Wisconsin should fully participate with the Dane County Regional Airport and the Federal Aviation Administration to mitigate and abate noise concerns.

On behalf of the members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, we are proud to register our overwhelming support for the men and women of the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and their selection for the F-35A mission at Truax. Please take into consideration this immense display of support for the United States Air Force's choice to perform the F-35A mission at Truax when making your final decision.

Thank you for giving the members of the Wisconsin State Legislature the opportunity to provide our opinion on behalf of the people who we represent concerning this important decision that will impact the future security of our nation and world.

Sincerely,



Senator Scott L. Fitzgerald  
Majority Leader  
Wisconsin State Senate



Representative Robin Vos  
Speaker  
Wisconsin State Assembly

Cc:

F-35A EIS Project Manager  
NGB/A4AM  
Shepperd Hall  
3501 Fetchet Avenue  
Joint Base Andrews MD 20762-5157

2019 Senate Joint Resolution 69

**ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION**

**Relating to:** recognizing the contributions of the 115th Fighter Wing and showing support for basing F-35As at Truax Field Air National Guard Base in Wisconsin.

Whereas, after reviewing 18 potential locations, the U.S. Air Force selected Truax Field Air National Guard Base in Wisconsin as the preferred location for one of the next two Air National Guard F-35A bases; and

Whereas, F-35As will allow the Air Force to maintain its air dominance capabilities and allow Service Members to conduct their missions with greater safety, which benefits our country as a whole; and

Whereas, the U.S. Air Force expects the state-of-the-art F-35As would begin arriving at Truax Field by early 2023; and

Whereas, F-35As will replace the Block 30 F-16s flown by the 115th Fighter Wing, which are the oldest model F-16s in the Air Force, and this will ensure the long-term viability of Truax Field; and

Whereas, for 71 years there has been an uninterrupted Air Force mission at Truax Field, and the F-35As will be the tenth different air frame flown from Truax Field; and

Whereas, the F-35 mission would maintain and enhance the economic impact of the 115th Fighter Wing by continuing its \$100 million of economic output and 1,650 in-state jobs and creating 64 new jobs; and

Whereas, the F-35 mission would provide up to \$120 million in improvements to the Dane County Regional Airport and create hundreds of construction jobs with a total economic impact to the region of more than \$3.3 billion; and

Whereas, the 115th Fighter Wing, the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee, and the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) are intricately linked and benefit from their close proximity to each other, which would further increase the F-35 mission's economic impact on the state of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the F-35 basing projects environmental impacts, but noise modeling in the Draft EIS identifies the potential for noise impacts in the area immediately surrounding the airport that would require mitigation if the modelling is found to be accurate; and

Whereas, the 115th Fighter Wing has a long history of being a good neighbor to Dane County Regional Airport, has worked cooperatively with the airport in the past to mitigate noise impacts by adjusting flight patterns and flight times and making significant infrastructure investments, and has indicated that the F-35 provides further opportunities to mitigate noise impacts, including almost completely eliminating afterburner use at the airport; and

Whereas, the state of Wisconsin should fully participate with Dane County Regional Airport as a partner in the Federal Aviation Administration Part 150 program to mitigate or abate noise concerns; and

Whereas, the final decision on locating the F-35 base will be made early in 2020; and

Whereas, there is widespread bipartisan support for basing the F-35s at Truax Field from federal, state, and community leaders who recognize and appreciate the importance of the 115th Fighter Wing's dual federal and state missions; and

Whereas, the 115th Fighter Wing has deployed overseas to defend and protect our nation; mobilized in response to statewide emergencies and natural disasters; and responded locally to incidents at the airport and in the surrounding community, including the recent fire at the Blount Street electrical substation in Madison; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That** the Wisconsin Legislature does hereby recognize the many federal, state, and local contributions of the 115th Fighter Wing and fully supports basing the next generation of freedom fighting aircraft in the state of Wisconsin.