



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member Smith, and Ranking Member McCollum:

As the Senate and House move forward with the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to reaffirm my strong support for the F-35 Lightning II program. The cornerstone of United States and allied airpower, the program delivers decisive capability in contested environments and underpins our nation's deterrence and mission success around the globe.

Texas has long played a leading role in our nation's security and economic strength as an epicenter for the aerospace, aviation, and defense industries. The F-35, manufactured in Fort Worth, Texas, is the only fifth-generation stealth fighter in production in the United States. It utilizes cutting-edge technologies to deter our geopolitical foes, while also creating top-tier manufacturing and engineering positions nationwide. In Texas alone, the F-35 program supports 49,000 direct and indirect jobs, with more than 141 suppliers, creating an annual economic impact of over \$10 billion.

Fort Worth's U.S. Air Force Plant 4, proud home to the F-35 production line, has a storied history of amazing advancements in aerospace technology. With roots dating back to World War II, the facility has played a pivotal role in developing numerous iconic aircraft, including the B-24 Liberator, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, the F-22 Raptor, and now the F-35 Lightning II. Plant 4 — and the fighter aircraft built inside it — are strong symbols of Texas innovation, national strength, and American superiority. It is truly "Peace Through Strength" in action.

I respectfully request your support for procurement of 85 F-35 aircraft in the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act to maintain fleet readiness and cost stability. The F-35 program delivered 191 aircraft

Chairman Rogers, Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member Smith, and Ranking Member McCollum

April 30, 2026

Page 2

last year, demonstrating production maturity, stability, and sustained demand. We urge you to consider multiyear procurement authority to achieve meaningful cost savings through production optimization, economic order quantity purchasing, and predictable demand signals for the defense industrial base. This production level is essential to meet the warfighter's requirements and ensure the F-35 remains a vital component of U.S. and allied airpower.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your important work to safeguard our nation with the F-35 program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott  
Governor



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

KELLY A. AYOTTE  
Governor

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Wicker,

As the Senate and House move forward with the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to reaffirm my strong support for the F-35 Lightning II program. The F-35 is the cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower, delivering decisive capability in contested environments and underpinning our nation's deterrence and mission success around the globe.

The F35 program has a meaningful and primarily supply chain driven impact in New Hampshire. It is economically significant and industrially concentrated, supporting hundreds of high-paying jobs and hundreds of millions in annual output with roughly 50-55 in state suppliers. These companies, many of them small and medium-sized manufacturers, produce high precision parts, electronics and pilot systems. The program supports over 900 direct jobs and additional indirect employment across suppliers and service industries.

I respectfully request your support for procurement of 85 F-35 aircraft in the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act to maintain fleet readiness and cost stability. I also respectfully request you consider multiyear procurement authority to achieve meaningful cost savings through production optimization, economic order quantity purchasing, and predictable demand signals for the defense industrial base. This production level is essential to meet the warfighter's requirements and ensure the F-35 remains a vital component of U.S. and allied airpower.

Thank you for giving due attention to the importance of the F-35 program as you work to safeguard our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Ayotte".

Kelly A. Ayotte  
Governor



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KELLY A. AYOTTE  
Governor

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Reed,

As the Senate and House move forward with the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to reaffirm my strong support for the F-35 Lightning II program. The F-35 is the cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower, delivering decisive capability in contested environments and underpinning our nation's deterrence and mission success around the globe.

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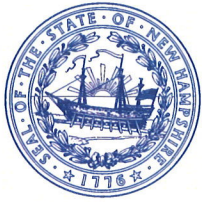
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Thank you for giving due attention to the importance of the F-35 program as you work to safeguard our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Ayotte".

Kelly A. Ayotte  
Governor



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

KELLY A. AYOTTE  
Governor

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Chair, Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
728 Hart Senate Office Building, S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator McConnell,

As the Senate and House move forward with the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to reaffirm my strong support for the F-35 Lightning II program. The F-35 is the cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower, delivering decisive capability in contested environments and underpinning our nation's deterrence and mission success around the globe.

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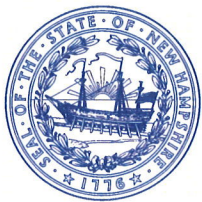
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Thank you for giving due attention to the importance of the F-35 program as you work to safeguard our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Ayotte".

Kelly A. Ayotte  
Governor



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

KELLY A. AYOTTE  
Governor

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Chris Coons  
Ranking Member, Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Coons,

As the Senate and House move forward with the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to reaffirm my strong support for the F-35 Lightning II program. The F-35 is the cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower, delivering decisive capability in contested environments and underpinning our nation's deterrence and mission success around the globe.

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Thank you for giving due attention to the importance of the F-35 program as you work to safeguard our nation.

Sincerely,

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Kelly A. Ayotte  
Governor



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

KELLY A. AYOTTE  
Governor

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chair, House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Defense  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Calvert,

As the Senate and House move forward with the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to reaffirm my strong support for the F-35 Lightning II program. The F-35 is the cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower, delivering decisive capability in contested environments and underpinning our nation's deterrence and mission success around the globe.

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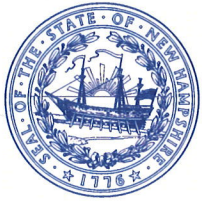
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Thank you for giving due attention to the importance of the F-35 program as you work to safeguard our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Ayotte".

Kelly A. Ayotte  
Governor



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**KELLY A. AYOTTE**  
Governor

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Defense  
2256 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative McCollum,

As the Senate and House move forward with the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to reaffirm my strong support for the F-35 Lightning II program. The F-35 is the cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower, delivering decisive capability in contested environments and underpinning our nation's deterrence and mission success around the globe.

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Thank you for giving due attention to the importance of the F-35 program as you work to safeguard our nation.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Ayotte  
Governor



**MIKE DEWINE**  
**GOVERNOR OF OHIO**



May 22, 2026

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McConnell,

I am writing to highly recommend the F-35 Lightning II program and ask for your support as the Administration advances its national security strategy to meet growing challenges.

As you know, the F-35 is an essential component of the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps fighter fleets. It is critical that the Department of Defense (DoD) restore production of the F-35 to ensure we maintain air superiority -- and industrial superiority -- well into the future.

The F-35 is critical to Ohio's economy with more than 391 companies supporting the program providing more than 15,300 direct and indirect estimated jobs. This work results in an annual economic impact of more than \$2.9 Billion throughout the entire state of Ohio. For example, Ohio is home to Howmet, the key supplier of the aluminum bulkheads on all three F-35 variants. And as you know, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton is home to the F-35 Hybrid Product Support Integration office, providing world-wide operational and sustainment support to the global F-35 fleet.

I respectfully request your support for procurement of 85 F-35 aircraft in the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act to maintain fleet readiness and cost stability. The F-35 program delivered 191 aircraft last year, demonstrating production maturity, stability, and sustained demand. We urge you to consider multiyear procurement authority to achieve meaningful cost savings through production optimization, economic order quantity purchasing, and predictable demand signals for the defense industrial base. This production level is essential to meet the warfighter's requirements and ensure the F-35 remains a vital component of U.S. and allied airpower.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine  
Governor



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133  
(617) 725-4000

MAURA T. HEALEY  
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

June 18, 2026

**Chairman Roger Wicker**

Chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services  
SR-228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Ranking Member Jack Reed**

Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Armed Services  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Chairman Mike Rogers**

Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Ranking Member Adam Smith**

Ranking Member, House Committee on Armed Services  
2264 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

In Western Massachusetts, the next chapter of American airpower is already taking shape.

Barnes Air National Guard Base has officially begun the transition from legacy F-15s to a new fleet of F-35A Lightning II aircraft, securing the future of the 104th Fighter Wing and reinforcing the defense of the northeastern United States for decades to come. These arriving aircraft reflect not only the Air Force's confidence in the mission at Barnes, but also Massachusetts's enduring commitment to supporting our servicemembers and their families.

That local story is part of a much larger national imperative.

The F-35 has become the backbone of U.S. and allied airpower, delivering the advanced sensing, survivability, and interoperability required to operate in contested environments. As global threats evolve, maintaining that edge is essential to our military's deterrence and operational success.

Massachusetts contributes to this effort well beyond Barnes. Across the Commonwealth, more than 6,600 jobs at 103 small and medium-sized businesses are tied to the F-35 program, generating approximately \$715 million in annual economic impact. These companies represent a highly skilled, innovation-driven segment of the defense industrial base that depends on sustained and predictable investment.

As Congress considers the Fiscal Year 2027 defense authorization and appropriations bills, I urge you to support procurement of 85 F-35 aircraft to sustain readiness and capacity, consider providing multiyear procurement authority to drive efficiencies and strengthen the industrial base, and continue funding for modernization and sustainment, including mission systems upgrades and readiness investments.

These priorities will ensure that installations like Barnes, and the communities that support them, remain central to our national defense strategy.

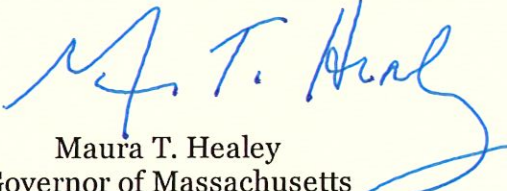
That responsibility carries particular meaning in Massachusetts.

As the United States marks the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution this summer, the Commonwealth reflects on a legacy that stretches from the opening battles at Lexington and Concord to the next generation of airpower now arriving at Barnes Air National Guard Base. For 250 years, Massachusetts has stood at the forefront of America's defense, innovation and service—helping safeguard the nation not only through military strength, but through the ingenuity, industrial capacity and civic commitment that underpin it.

The arrival of the F-35 at Barnes ensures that tradition of service will continue for decades to come. It strengthens the defense of the northeastern United States, supports a highly skilled workforce and advanced manufacturing base across the Commonwealth, and preserves the operational excellence of the 104th Fighter Wing for the next generation of airmen and families who serve there.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership in strengthening both our military readiness and the economic vitality across the United States, including here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



Maura T. Healey  
Governor of Massachusetts

CC: Chairman Susan Collins, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Ranking Member Patty Murray, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Chairman Tom Cole, House Committee on Appropriations  
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Committee on Appropriations



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 4, 2026

**The Honorable Mike Rogers**

Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Ken Calvert**

Chairman  
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Adam Smith**

Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Betty McCollum**

Ranking Member  
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2027 defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to urge your continued support for the F-35 Lightning II program, a cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower and a critical driver of economic strength in Arizona.

The F-35's advanced sensing, survivability, and interoperability enable the United States and our allies to deter aggression and succeed in contested environments. Its performance in recent operational deployments has demonstrated its unmatched value in ensuring our national security.

Here at home, Arizona plays a vital role in sustaining this capability. The F-35 program supports nearly 14,000 high-tech and high-paying jobs, supports 41 small and medium suppliers with \$1.8 billion in annual economic impact. Lockheed Martin's sites in the state are nationally recognized as advanced aerospace manufacturing centers and anchor a broader ecosystem of advanced manufacturing across the state. More broadly, Lockheed Martin's overall presence supports 634 jobs and contracts with nearly 115 vendors, and contributes \$5 billion annually to Arizona's economy.

F-35 bases in Arizona play a crucial role in training and development:

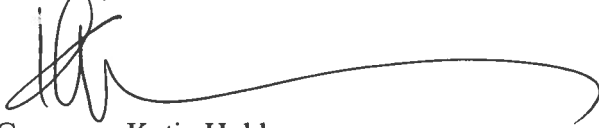
- **Luke Air Force Base:** The primary base for training F-35A Lightning II pilots, home to the 56th Fighter Wing and a major installation under the Air Education and Training Command (AETC).
- **310th Fighter Squadron:** Recently activated with F-35 Lightning II aircraft and personnel to develop F-35 fighter pilots, instructors, and leaders, contributing to U.S. Air Force strategic capabilities and international defense partnerships.

As the program has matured into full-rate production, now is the time to reinforce stability and predictability in the industrial base. I urge Congress to support a minimum of 85 F-35 aircraft in Fiscal Year 2027 and to consider multiyear procurement authority to reduce costs and strengthen supplier networks. Continued investment in modernization and sustainment will ensure that the F-35 fleet remains ready and capable for decades to come.

These investments are not abstract. They will sustain jobs in Arizona, strengthen America's industrial base, and provide our servicemembers with the tools they need to prevail.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to our national defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KH', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Governor Katie Hobbs

State of Arizona

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100  
FAX: (334) 242-3282

STATE OF ALABAMA

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Chairman  
Senate Defense Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wicker and Chairman McConnell:

Please accept this letter as a statement of my support for the F-35 Lightning II program as you consider the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) defense-authorization and appropriations bills.

The F-35 Lightning II program delivers a significant and sustained positive impact to the State of Alabama and our country. With approximately 20 aircraft based at the 187th Fighter Wing at Dannelly Field in Montgomery, the F-35 mission is key component of the Alabama National Guard and principal driver of the success of the Alabama Air National Guard. It is also responsible for important economic activity, supporting direct and indirect military, civilian, and contractor careers. The F-35 mission strengthens Alabama's position as a growing aerospace and defense hub, complementing broader defense activities across the region and attracting additional suppliers, talent, and federal resources.

As Governor, and as Commander-in-Chief of the Alabama National Guard, my top priorities include protecting American lives, ensuring military preparedness, and promoting national security. To this end, your full consideration of this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey".

Kay Ivey  
Governor



STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp  
GOVERNOR

April 28, 2026

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

The incredible F-35 stealth fighter is not only proudly built in Georgia, but soon will be flown here, as well.

At Lockheed Martin's Marietta facility, more than one-quarter of every F-35 aircraft takes shape, including the center wing, vertical and horizontal tails, and advanced stealth coatings. This work represents a critical segment of the production line and underscores Georgia's central role in delivering the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world.

That role will only grow stronger in the years ahead. With Moody Air Force Base set to receive F-35A aircraft later this decade, replacing the storied A-10 Warthog, the program will become both Georgia-built and Georgia-flown — further improving operational capability while reinforcing the economy of South Georgia.

Across the state, the F-35 program already supports more than 4,200 Georgia jobs and 31 supplier partners while generating approximately \$715 million in economic impact every year. These workers and American businesses are part of a broader industrial base that depends on sustained investment and production stability.

Given the growing dangers in the world, with U.S. Armed Forces even now actively engaged in some of those conflicts, the F-35's value and capability in countering those threats and helping to protect our interests cannot be overstated.

With that in mind, as Congress considers the Fiscal Year 2027 defense appropriations bill, I urge you to:

- Support procurement of at least 85 F-35 aircraft to maintain production continuity and readiness worthy of the American people and its military,
- Provide multiyear procurement authority to reduce costs for the taxpayer and strengthen the supplier base, and

- Continue investments in modernizing and sustaining this program to ensure the aircraft remains mission-capable and technologically dominant, especially in light of the increasing capabilities of major adversaries like China and Russia.

This request is in alignment with the President's budget recommendation, supporting full-rate production, modernization, and mission readiness.

The F-35 aircraft represents the best of American manufacturing and military capability. It is a key, strategic part of the arsenal of freedom, and Georgia is proud to help keep our country safe through its continued success.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of this critical program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B:lh". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brian P. Kemp



TINA KOTEK  
GOVERNOR

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20150

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cliff Bentz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
409 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maxine Dexter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1207 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Val Hoyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1620 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Janelle Bynum  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1508 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andrea Salinas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
403 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2027 defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to urge your continued support for the F-35 Lightning II program, a cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower and a critical driver of economic strength in Oregon.

The F-35's advanced sensing, survivability, and interoperability are indispensable. It enables the U.S. and our allies to deter aggression, project power, and succeed in highly contested environments. Its performance in recent operational deployments has demonstrated its unmatched value to our global security architecture.

Here at home, Oregon plays a vital, direct role in sustaining and deploying this capability. We are not just contributing to the aircraft's supply chain; we are forging the aviators who will fly it. The selection of Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls to host the Air Force's third formal training unit for the F-35A is a testament to Oregon's strategic importance, and we are grateful to the community for their support and partnership. By transitioning the 173rd Fighter Wing from the

Oregon Congressional Delegation  
April 30, 2026  
Page 2

F-15C to the F-35A, Oregon is now at the tip of the spear for Air Force modernization. The pilots trained in our skies today are the ones who will ensure U.S. air superiority and strengthen our international defense partnerships tomorrow.

Furthermore, a robust national defense requires a resilient and predictable industrial base. Across Oregon, the F-35 program directly supports our state's economic security, sustaining 4,800 high-tech, high-paying jobs and 18 small and medium-sized suppliers. This generates \$670 million in annual economic impact. More broadly, Lockheed Martin's footprint in the state, alongside its network of 115 suppliers, contributes an additional \$205 million annually to Oregon's economy.

As the program has matured into full-rate production, now is the time to reinforce stability in this critical industrial base. I urge Congress to support the procurement of a minimum of 85 F-35 aircraft in Fiscal Year 2027 and to authorize multiyear procurement capabilities. These actions will reduce overall costs, strengthen supplier networks, and guarantee that the F-35 fleet remains ready and capable for decades to come.

These investments are not abstract. They sustain critical manufacturing capabilities in Oregon, strengthen America's defense industrial base, and, most importantly, provide our servicemembers with the unmatched tools they need to prevail.

Thank you for your leadership and your unwavering commitment to our national defense.

Sincerely,



Governor Tina Kotek

cc: House Armed Services Committee  
House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense

101 NORTH CARSON STREET  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-3713  
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670  
FAX NO.: (775) 684-5685



1 STATE OF NEVADA WAY  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89119-4339  
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500  
FAX NO.: (702) 486-2505

## Office of the Governor

May 7, 2026

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
Room S-128, The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
H-405 The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Christopher Coons  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
Room S-128, The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chair  
House Committee on Armed Services  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Armed Services  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2027 defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to urge your continued support for the F-35 Lightning II program, which is a cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower and a critical driver of economic strength in Nevada.

The F-35's performance in recent operational deployments has demonstrated its unmatched value in ensuring our national security. Nevada proudly plays a vital role in sustaining this capability; the F-35 program supports nearly 580 high-tech and high-paying jobs and supports six small and medium suppliers with \$57 million in economic impact. Lockheed Martin's sites in the state are nationally recognized as advanced aerospace manufacturing centers and anchor a broader ecosystem of advanced manufacturing

across the state. More broadly, Lockheed Martin's overall presence supports nearly 450 jobs, contracts with 69 vendors, and contributes \$460 million annually to Nevada's economy.

While the F-35A Lightning II, a key asset for the U.S. Air Force, is at several bases in Nevada, the 57th Wing at Nellis Air Force Base is the primary base for F-35 operations. Nellis provides advanced training and maintenance for these advanced fighters. However, each of the Nevada bases plays a crucial role in the training and development of F-35 pilots and contributes to the U.S. Air Force's strategic capabilities and international defense partnerships.

It is important that the U.S. reinforce stability and predictability in the industrial base. To that end, I urge Congress to support a minimum of 85 F-35 aircraft in Fiscal Year 2027 and consider multiyear procurement authority to reduce costs and strengthen supplier networks. Continued investment in modernization and sustainment will ensure that the F-35 fleet remains at the ready, while also sustaining jobs in Nevada.

Thank you for your leadership, continued commitment to our national defense, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Joe Lombardo  
Governor



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER  
GOVERNOR

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

South Carolina's military communities, including our active-duty installations, National Guard personnel, and defense industrial partners play a critical role in supporting our nation's readiness and warfighting capability. The F-35 is woven directly into the fabric of those military communities and our state's economy.

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort stands as the premier East Coast training and operational hub for the F-35B Lightning II. It is home to Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 and operational squadron VMFA-533, ensuring that Marine aviators are trained and ready to operate one of the most advanced aircraft in the world.

McEntire Joint National Guard Base is the home of the 169<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. They are currently in need of recapitalization as the F-16 is nearing the end of its lifespan. The F-35 would be an ideal replacement but needs to be purchased in larger numbers to recapitalize frontline Air National Guard units nationwide.

South Carolina's role in the F-35 enterprise also includes sustainment and industrial support. Lockheed Martin's Greenville facility contributes to lifecycle sustainment efforts, while the broader F-35 program supports more than 1,700 jobs across 13 small business suppliers and generates approximately \$167 million in annual economic impact statewide.

At a time of growing global threats and increasing demand for air dominance, preserving robust F-35 procurement is essential. As you consider the Fiscal Year 2027 defense appropriations bills, I respectfully urge you to increase procurement of F-35 aircraft to ensure force readiness and capacity; authorize multiyear procurement to strengthen the industrial base and deliver cost

savings; and continue investments in sustainment and modernization to ensure the fleet remains fully mission-capable.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to our military and its mission.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry D. McMaster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Henry Dargan McMaster

HDM/cgs



# State of Mississippi

**TATE REEVES**  
Governor

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman McConnell,

As the Senate considers fiscal year 2027 defense appropriations, I write to express my strong support for the continued funding of the F-35 Lightning II program.

The F-35 is a critical component of U.S. and allied airpower. It provides unmatched capabilities that strengthen deterrence and performance in increasingly challenging environments.

The F-35 program strengthens our national security while creating meaningful economic opportunities in Mississippi and across the country. Continued investment in the program delivers significant benefits to Mississippi through aerospace manufacturing, military infrastructure and workforce development. The program also supports important activities at Stennis Space Center and Keesler Air Force Base and sustains high-skilled jobs in engineering, cybersecurity, software development and advanced manufacturing.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to protecting our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

Tate Reeves  
Governor

TR:PJW



**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS**  
**GOVERNOR**

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Defense Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Chairman Rogers,

As the House and Senate move forward with the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY 27) defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to reaffirm my strong support for the F-35 Lightning II program. The F-35 is the cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower, delivering decisive capability in contested environments and underpinning our nation's deterrence and mission success around the globe.

Every day, Arkansans contribute to the F-35 program. Seven advanced-technology companies in Arkansas build key components for the fighter, supporting 670 patriotic jobs and generating more than \$65 million in annual economic impact for our state. Arkansas is home to numerous advanced aerospace and aviation supplier firms and this industry remains that number one export for the state. The Ebbing Air National Guard Base - the international pilot training center for allied nations - positions Arkansas as a key hub in global defense operations. The mission supports U.S. national security by strengthening partnerships with countries flying the F-35, while delivering significant economic benefits through federal investment, job creation, and military relocation. Arkansas is truly one of the foundational building blocks of the "Arsenal of Freedom."

I respectfully request your support for the procurement of 85 F-35 aircraft in the FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act to maintain fleet readiness and cost stability. The F-35 program delivered 191 aircraft last year, demonstrating production maturity, stability, and sustained demand. We urge you to consider multiyear procurement authority to achieve meaningful cost savings through production optimization, economic order quantity purchasing, and predictable demand signals for the defense industrial base. This production level is essential to meet the warfighter's requirements and ensure the F-35 remains a vital component of U.S. and allied airpower.

Thank you for giving due attention to the importance of the F-35 program as you work to safeguard our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Sanders".

Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
Governor of Arkansas

cc: Members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation  
State Capitol Building • Little Rock, AR 72201  
Telephone: (501) 682-2345  
[www.governor.arkansas.gov](http://www.governor.arkansas.gov)

PHILIP B. SCOTT  
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Roger Wicker, Chair  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Chair  
Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons, Ranking Member  
Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert, Chair  
House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee  
on Defense  
United States House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum, Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee  
on Defense  
United States House of Representatives  
2256 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Wicker, McConnell, Calvert and Ranking Members Reed, Coons, McCollum:

As the Senate and House move forward with the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) defense authorization and appropriations bills, I write to express my strong support for the F-35 Lightning II program.

The 158<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Vermont Air National Guard – the Green Mountain Boys – was the first National Guard unit to receive F-35s, achieving its full complement of 20 F-35A's in 2020. The 158<sup>th</sup> is currently in a highly active period, with aircraft and personnel deployed in back-to-back combat missions.

We are very proud of our airmen. They are a premier instrument of U.S. national security and set the standard for excellence. Providing high-readiness, 5<sup>th</sup> generation combat power and precision, and leading-edge capabilities – at a lower cost than the active-duty units.

There is no doubt the F-35 is the cornerstone of U.S. and allied airpower, delivering decisive capability in contested environments, strengthening our nation's deterrence and supporting mission success around the globe. It's important to note that the F-35 mission drives significant economic benefits too. For example, a 2024 Economic Impact Statement by the Vermont National Guard concluded that there is an estimated \$251.6 million in total economic impact in Vermont, sustaining more than 2,000 jobs.

April 30, 2026

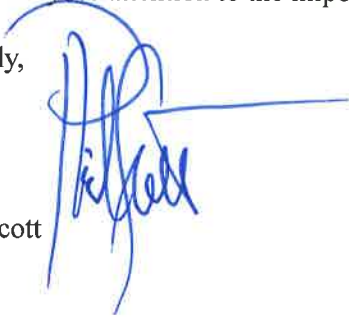
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For these reasons, I respectfully encourage you to support the procurement of additional F-35 aircraft in the FY27 National Defense Authorization Act to maintain fleet readiness and cost stability. I also urge you to consider multiyear procurement authority, if it will achieve cost savings.

Support for increased F-35 procurement is essential for the U.S. and allied air forces to maintain their current advantage in airpower.

Thank you for your attention to the importance of the F-35 program and for your work to safeguard our nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the middle of the signature.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

PBS/kp

cc: The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
The Honorable Peter Welch  
The Honorable Becca Balint



## State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 001

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0001

MIKIE SHERRILL  
Governor

June 5, 2026

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chairman Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chairman House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

New Jersey is making the case for the future of American airpower.

The New Jersey Air National Guard stands prepared to transition from legacy F-16s to the F-35A Lightning II. This is not a theoretical opportunity. It is a practical, near-term path to strengthening homeland defense in one of the most strategically important corridors in the United States.

Positioned between New York City and Washington, D.C., the 177th Fighter Wing serves as a critical safeguard for millions of Americans. Investments already underway, including a recently authorized \$61 million maintenance hangar, reflect both the readiness of the installation and the urgency of modernizing its capabilities for advanced, fifth-generation aircraft.

The case for the F-35 is clear.

It delivers the advanced sensing, survivability, and interoperability required to deter modern threats and defend U.S. airspace. For New Jersey, transitioning the 177th Fighter Wing ensures that this mission remains viable, relevant, and effective for decades to come.

The F-35 program is also deeply embedded in New Jersey's economy. Across our state, 67 suppliers support the program, sustaining more than 4,200 jobs and generating over \$468 million in annual economic impact. These companies—many of them small businesses—depend on a stable and predictable production environment.

As Congress considers the Fiscal Year 2027 defense authorization and appropriations bills, I urge you to: maintain procurement of at least 85 F-35 aircraft to ensure production continuity and readiness; support multiyear procurement authority to reduce costs and strengthen the industrial base; and continue investments in modernization and sustainment to ensure the fleet remains mission-ready and capable.

The decision to modernize installations like the 177th Fighter Wing in Egg Harbor Township is about more than just delivering aircraft. This effort will help ensure the United States retains a credible, responsive, and forward-leaning defense posture at home.

New Jersey stands ready to do its part. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mikie Sherrill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mikie Sherrill  
Governor



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**JOSH STEIN  
GOVERNOR**

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Smith, Chairman Wicker, and Ranking Member Reed,

The strength of the F-35 program is not defined by a single platform but by the integrated system that sustains it—from operational squadrons to depot maintenance to the suppliers that keep the fleet mission-ready. North Carolina sits at the center of this system.

At Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, operational F-35B and F-35C squadrons are replacing legacy aircraft and expanding the Marine Corps' fifth-generation capability on the East Coast. Just as critically, Fleet Readiness Center East provides depot-level maintenance across all F-35 variants, supporting component repair, engine work, and emerging sustainment requirements. This combination of operational and sustainment capacity is essential to ensuring that aircraft are not only fielded but ready when called upon.

As the F-35 program continues at scale, readiness will be the defining challenge and opportunity, and North Carolina will be at the forefront.

That is why sustained investment matters. Here in North Carolina alone, the F-35 program supports more than 3,800 jobs at 29 small- and medium-sized businesses, generating more than \$375 million in

annual economic activity. These suppliers and maintainers form a critical link in the broader defense industrial base and rely on stable demand signals to plan, hire, and deliver.

In this context, I respectfully urge Congress to prioritize the following in the Fiscal Year 2027 defense authorization and appropriations process:

First, maintain a procurement level of at least 85 F-35 aircraft to preserve production continuity and fleet capacity.

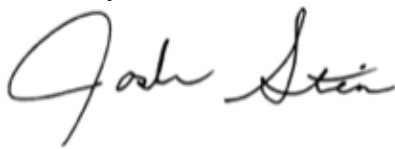
Second, authorize multiyear procurement to enable cost savings and provide the predictability required across the industrial base.

Third, continue targeted investments in sustainment and modernization to ensure that a growing fleet translates into a ready and combat-credible force.

Lastly, I want to highlight that North Carolina believes the F-35 ecosystem is so important that we have invested our own funds to ensure its success. We have invested funds that support F-35 maintenance in the North Carolina Global TransPark (GTP) in Kinston by way of expansion of Fleet Readiness Center East (FRCE) facilities in the TransPark. These facilities help to support the additional F-35 depot-level maintenance needs at MCAS Cherry Point facilities.

The F-35's advantage is not just its capability in flight but also the strength of the enterprise that supports it. North Carolina is proud to play a leading role in that effort. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to strengthening our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Stein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Stein  
Governor