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January 12, 2023

The Honorable Frank Kendall III
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Kendall,

I write today in follow-up to my November 16, 2022 letter reengaging our ongoing discussions on the prospects for future fighter missions at Selfridge.

We were honored to host Ed Oshiba, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and Environment, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base on December 13, 2022. As a follow-up to his visit along with you earlier last year to the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center during Operation Northern Strike, stakeholders across Michigan appreciated the opportunity to showcase for him the interconnectedness of Michigan's defense capabilities, and the powerhouse that is Selfridge. My office, Michigan's Adjutant General Paul Rogers, and the Michigan National Guard were pleased to host the Acting Assistant Secretary at Selfridge, along with staff from the Michigan Congressional Delegation from both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives on both sides of the aisle, as well as incoming Representative himself, John James.

Acting Assistant Secretary Oshiba received a full briefing on the base's capabilities, as well as a clearer understanding of its role as a defense, innovation, and economic anchor for Southeast Michigan and across our great state. He was also able to witness firsthand its deep connections to the vibrant defense and academic sectors across our state.

I write again today to reiterate Michigan's commitment to supporting President Biden's National Security Strategy, which focuses on investing in the underlying sources and tools of American power and influence, building the strongest possible coalition of nations, and modernizing and strengthening our military to better equip us for strategic competition. I repeat and reiterate what I stated in November and many times before over the past year: a fighter mission at Selfridge to recapitalize the A10s is the right path forward for the State of Michigan, the Air Force, and the nation.

I was grateful for the opportunity to lift up this priority directly with Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks when I met with her at the Pentagon on December 2, 2022 as a follow up to my prior conversation with her last year. We look forward to continued



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discussion with the Department of Defense on supplemental missions and investments from across the department that enhance future flying missions at Selfridge.

I reiterate again that I am prepared to do all I can to ensure that the replacement of the A-10 with a future fighter mission at Selfridge is a cost-effective opportunity for the Air Force. I repeat my commitment to funding upgrades, which would significantly reduce the cost to the Air Force by almost \$100 million. I look forward to sharing more with you about the next steps in this commitment as we solidify our state budget in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, I'd like to share with you the attached document, which summarizes the Michigan advantage when it comes to national defense. Just updated this week, this document touches on the vast work across our great state spanning the military/defense, industry/tech, and academic/innovation sectors, among others. I plan to continue to provide you with similar and additional information in the weeks to come.

I underscore my commitment to continue to work with you, Michigan stakeholders, the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Michigan Congressional Delegation, as we collectively develop a replacement mission for Selfridge following the A-10 divestitures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer

Governor of Michigan