

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 21, 2015

The Honorable Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary James:

The Oklahoma Congressional delegation, along with the State of Oklahoma, the people of Tulsa and its surrounding communities, and the Oklahoma National Guard urge you to consider the 138th Fighter Wing (138th FW) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the next home for the F-35A. We believe that the strategic advantages of 138th FW, coupled with the unparalleled Oklahoma community and Congressional support, make it the best choice for beddown of the F-35A. Once you have had a chance to evaluate all the basing alternatives, we are confident that Tulsa and the 138th FW will meet the selection qualifications set by the Air Force.

Operational Locations 5 and 6 must be strategically located at Air National Guard wings with a proven history of combat excellence and the right demographics. They must also have superior facilities to sustain this mission, both abroad and in the homeland. We submit that the 138th FW excels in all of these criteria. The Wing's presence is both national and global. The 138th FW has deployed 11 times since 1996 in support of combat operations and are currently deployed to PACOM as part of a Theater Security Package. The Wing also maintains the Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) mission at Ellington Field, Texas, securing our nation's borders from Arizona to Louisiana. The 138th FW has the right cadre of pilots and maintainers positioned to sustain the F-35A mission and has superior facilities, to include facility upgrades already in the works, to ensure a smooth transition to this airframe. Additionally, many suppliers to the F-35A program are based in the Tulsa area, and its aerospace industry presence provides immense recruiting potential.

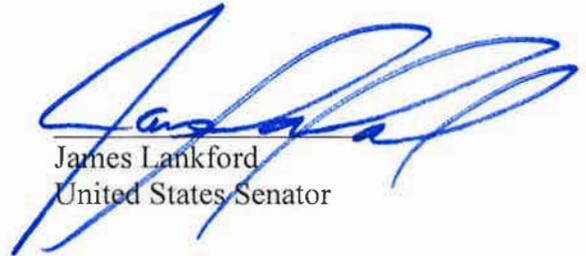
As Oklahoma's Congressional delegation, we represent our State on numerous committees, including the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, House Armed Services Committee, and House Appropriations Committee, and the Joint Strike Fighter Caucus. We have maintained robust support and presence in the development and procurement of the F-35. We have met with our constituents, local business leaders and elected officials, and we can assure you that there is extensive local and state support for bringing the F-35A to Tulsa.

Oklahoma is unsurpassed in its support for our military. Examples of this support for the Air Force include procurement of the General Motors Plant and BNSF rail spur for Tinker Air Force Base, additional land for base security and housing as well as extending the runway at Woodring Airport for operations at Vance Air Force Base, and additional land and development of new water sources at Altus Air Force Base. Oklahoma is also cost effective for all military operations to include the F-35A. We are ready to stand by the communities we represent, including Tulsa, to ensure the Air Force is well supported in the state of Oklahoma.

Thank you for your full consideration of the 138th FW. We look forward to working with you to make the Tulsa Air National the next home of F-35A.



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



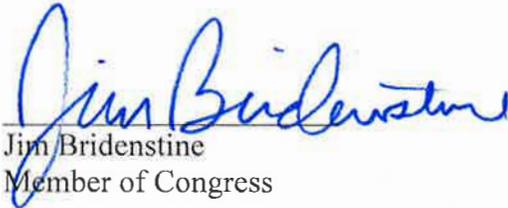
James Lankford
United States Senator



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Steve Russell
Member of Congress