



2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 69

October 4, 2019 – Introduced by Senators FITZGERALD, MILLER, ROTH, MARKLEIN and KOOYENGA, cosponsored by Representatives KURTZ, SKOWRONSKI, VANDERMEER, ALLEN, EDMING, SUMMERFIELD, JAMES, PLUMER, DITTRICH, BALLWEG, TITTL and OTT. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 Whereas, the F-35 mission would maintain and enhance the economic impact
5 of the 115th Fighter Wing by continuing its \$100 million of economic output and
6 1,650 in-state jobs and creating 64 new jobs; and

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

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

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

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

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

4 Whereas, the final decision on locating the F-35 base will be made early in
5 2020; and

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

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

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

18

(END)