

By Senator Gibson

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Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing support for basing United States Air Force F-35A Lightning II joint strike fighter aircraft at the Florida Air National Guard base at Jacksonville International Airport.

WHEREAS, the F-35A Lightning II is the most advanced aircraft in the United States Air Force fighter inventory and will deliver cutting-edge capability to our national security initiatives for decades to come, and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force is now conducting a selection process for F-35 base assignments which could include the placement of up to 24 F-35A Lightning II aircraft and the creation of as many as 250 additional jobs in the base locations chosen, and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to several F-35A Lightning II manufacturing and training facilities, including the Pratt & Whitney West Palm Beach Engine Center, the Lockheed Martin Pinellas Park manufacturing facility, and Orlando's Lockheed Martin training systems unit, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Air National Guard boasts approximately 1,900 highly trained and skilled men and women who serve in the world's most dominant Air Force and able National Guard, and

WHEREAS, Florida offers an abundance of unhindered training airspace adjacent to the City of Jacksonville which is accessible to numerous installations and which increases training time and reduces fuel consumption, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter

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30 Wing at Jacksonville International Airport has been named one of  
31 five finalists for basing of F-35A Lightning II aircraft, and

32 WHEREAS, the 125th Fighter Wing has an economic impact of  
33 more than \$100 million annually on Northeast Florida, and

34 WHEREAS, Jacksonville has strongly supported United States  
35 Department of Defense activities for more than a century and is  
36 home to more than 150,000 veterans and 50,000 active duty,  
37 reserve component, and department personnel, and

38 WHEREAS, Florida is the most military-friendly state in the  
39 nation, as evidenced by the state's commitment to policies that  
40 support the continued growth and protection of military assets  
41 and enhance the lives of servicemembers who reside in this  
42 state, NOW, THEREFORE,

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44 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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46 That the Florida Senate supports the Florida Air National  
47 Guard in its mission to secure the basing of the F-35A at the  
48 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville.