

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

September 13, 2022

The Honorable Frank Kendall
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Secretary Kendall:

We write in support of providing F-35 or F-15EX fighter aircraft to the 144th Fighter Wing of the California Air National Guard. The F-15C aircraft of the 144th Fighter Wing are nearing the end of their service, and we understand that the Department of the Air Force is working now to identify replacement aircraft. We believe the F-35 or F-15EX would enable the 144th Fighter Wing to continue and expand its vital and longstanding mission to provide air superiority and homeland defense from its strategic location near the Pacific.

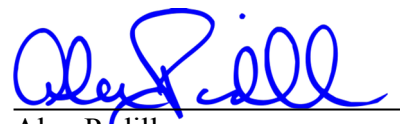
We are proud that the 144th Fighter Wing has served as an integral part of our state and national air defense since its establishment in 1948. The 144th Fighter Wing has strong support from the local community, directly supports the Air Sovereignty Alert mission, and remains ready for operational deployments. Given the essential mission of the 144th Fighter Wing—which aligns with the top priorities in the National Defense Strategy of defending the homeland and deterring China—we believe it is imperative to provide it with the most advanced aircraft available. Further, the 144th Fighter Wing only transitioned to the F-15C in 2013, and recapitalizing with an older aircraft would set up another transition as those aircraft reach either the end of their service lives or obsolescence. Providing the F-35 or F-15EX aircraft would help ensure the 144th Fighter Wing is able to continue executing its mission without interruption.

We appreciate your consideration of this important matter. Thank you for your dedication to the men and women of the United States Air Force, and please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



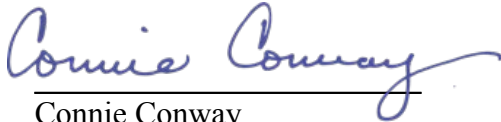
Alex Padilla
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



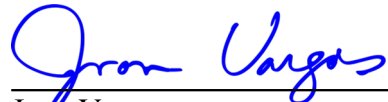
Connie Conway
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



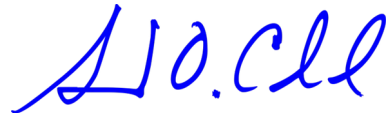
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
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