

Thank you Chairman Rogers and Ranking Smith for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I want to highlight the critical importance of investing in Selfridge Air National Guard Base and ensuring it is fully prepared for the next generation of missions that will define our nation's security.

Selfridge is not just a Michigan asset—it is a cornerstone of our homeland defense. *As the only Air National Guard installation with a 100 percent federally owned flightline, its strategic location near the northern border, its proven joint-force integration with DHS, the Coast Guard, and Customs and Border Protection, and its unparalleled access to Great Lakes airspace make it indispensable to our homeland defense.* As our delegation outlined, the planned arrival of the F-15EX Eagle II and KC-46A Pegasus aircraft represents a transformational leap in capability—enhancing air sovereignty, rapid response, and aerial refueling across the region.

This mission is also a clear priority for President Trump. His decision to base these next-generation aircraft at Selfridge reflects the installation's strategic value and a broader commitment to strengthening our homeland defense posture. It is now incumbent upon us to do everything we can to ensure the federal resources are in place to execute that vision.

However, these aircraft cannot achieve their full mission without the infrastructure to support them.

That is why FY27 Military Construction funding is so critical. The modernization of Selfridge is not routine—it is a time-sensitive national security priority. Without timely investment, we risk operational delays, safety gaps, and increased long-term costs.

Michigan has already demonstrated strong partnership in this effort, including a significant state investment of \$152 million dollars.

Now, we ask this Committee to prioritize the necessary MILCON funding to ensure Selfridge is ready on time and on mission. Doing so will empower the men and women of the 127th Wing, strengthen our national defense posture, and secure Selfridge's role as a premier installation for decades to come.

This is about readiness. This is about deterrence. And this is about delivering on a critical national security priority.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with the Committee to advance this effort.