



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUN 26 2018

Mr. Kevin Dorn
City Manager
575 Dorset Street
South Burlington, VT 05403

Dear Mr. Dorn:

Thank you for your April 17, 2018 letter addressing the Air Force decision to base the F-35 at Burlington Air National Guard Base and sharing the South Burlington City Council resolution. The Secretary of the Air Force has asked me to respond on her behalf.

The Air Force finalized the decision to base the F-35 in Burlington in 2013 after a thorough 48-month review of 205 locations. We expect the first aircraft to arrive in 2019. If the Air Force were to honor the Council's request to cancel basing the F-35 at the Vermont Air National Guard Base, the Vermont Air National Guard would likely lose their flying mission upon the retirement of the F-16s. During the Environmental Impact Statement public involvement phases, we addressed for public record the same concerns expressed by the South Burlington City Council in their April 16, 2018 resolution. We will continue to engage transparently with the community as this basing action moves forward.

The Air Force has made significant investments in the State of Vermont and the City of South Burlington. We estimate capital expenditures over the next 5 years to exceed \$100 million, with payroll contributions of \$50 million per year. Additionally, the Air National Guard will continue to provide the fire and safety equipment supporting the joint use of the airport by both military and commercial operations.

We are grateful to the City of South Burlington for their strong support of our Airmen and their families over the past 72 years. Thanks for your continued partnership in support of our Airmen and the modernization of their equipment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Henderson", is written over the typed name.

JOHN W. HENDERSON, P.E.
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Installations, Environment, and Energy)

cc:

Honorable Patrick Leahy
Honorable Bernie Sanders
Honorable Peter Welch