

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2026

The Honorable Hung Cao
Acting Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Acting Secretary Cao,

Thank you for your service to our nation. As you consider where to base seven F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (F-35C) squadrons, we would like to express our staunch support for basing these aircraft at Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore. NAS Lemoore has the capacity to support additional aircraft, has widespread community support, is located near critical Navy ranges that can bolster its mission, and has received significant federal investments in recent years.

Located in California's Central Valley, NAS Lemoore is in both Kings and Fresno Counties and is surrounded by some of our nation's most productive agricultural lands. This is conducive to high volumes of flights, and the mission of NAS Lemoore is proudly supported by communities throughout the region. With nearly 20,000 acres, NAS Lemoore has room to grow and is well positioned to support our nation.

NAS Lemoore is also strengthened by nearby Navy installations like NAWS China Lake, which is located within military protected airspace called the R-2508 Complex with access to an overland range with over a million acres and a highly skilled workforce, whose mission has been enhanced by major investments made by Congress in recent years. Training can also occur at the Point Mugu Sea Range, which is comprised of 36,000 square-miles with deep water ports, vast ocean, and islands, or NAS Fallon, which benefited from a major range expansion. Whatever the mission, NAS Lemoore has access to world-class facilities that can support its objectives.

Congress has recognized the importance of investing in NAS Lemoore by funding major military construction projects. In Fiscal Year 2026, Congress invested \$55.542 million for the Strike Fighter Center of Excellence, as well as \$17 million to design a new F-35 Maintenance Hangar to support the F-35C mission (Public Law 119-37). These recent expenditures build on existing major investments that are already supporting the F-35C program at NAS Lemoore and serve as a foundation for future aircraft assignments.

Significant investments have also been made into the educational system that supports the families of NAS Lemoore. Recently, R.J. Neutra Elementary School received nearly \$36.599 million in federal funding for renovations. Admiral Akers Elementary School benefited from receiving \$21.7 million in federal funding to modernize the facility. These investments underscore the significant role these schools play for the families of NAS Lemoore.

Our communities are proud of the United States Navy and the important role the Navy plays in defending our country. NAS Lemoore is home to incredible men and women who proudly serve our nation, and there is no better place to base the Navy's F-35Cs than NAS Lemoore.

Sincerely,



Vince Fong
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



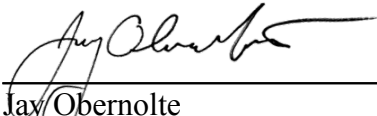
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



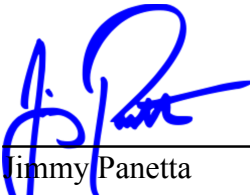
Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



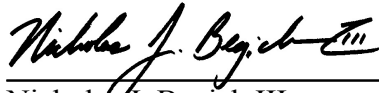
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



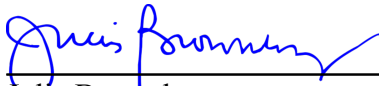
Nicholas J. Begich III
Congressman for All Alaska



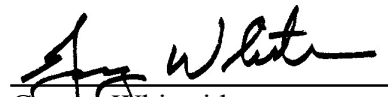
Young Kim
Member of Congress



Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



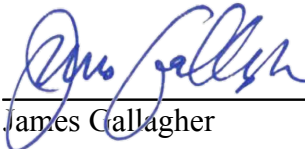
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James P. Gallagher", written over a horizontal line.

James Gallagher
Member of Congress