

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor, State of Michigan
111 South Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader, Michigan Senate
100 North Capitol Avenue, 102 C
Lansing, MI 48933

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House, Michigan House of Representatives
100 North Capitol Avenue, 164 C
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Governor Whitmer, Majority Leader Brinks, and Speaker Hall:

As champions of economic development across Michigan, the undersigned business organizations, companies, and local governments respectfully urge the Michigan Legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to finalize \$152 million in state funding for runway improvements at Selfridge Air National Guard Base and unlock federal dollars. We ask that a collaborative, bipartisan solution be reached by June 1.

Selfridge is a vital economic engine for Macomb County, Metro Detroit, and the state of Michigan, generating an estimated \$800 million annual economic impact. With sustained infrastructure upgrades projected to cost around \$1 billion over five to seven years, the installation has the immense potential to become a "super base" in the years to come. The base secures highly skilled jobs and anchors a robust defense supply chain in a state that is home to more than 600 aerospace suppliers and over 30,000 employees.

Thank you for already showing strong support for this state investment. However, for Michigan to capitalize on this generational opportunity, state leaders must work together to ensure the funds are available immediately to meet tight construction deadlines. We respectfully request that you prioritize a unified agreement by June 1 to invest \$152 million, ensuring that Selfridge Air National Guard Base remains a foundational pillar of Michigan's prosperity and to protect our defense economy.

Sincerely,

Detroit Regional Chamber
Detroit Regional Defense Coalition
Automation Alley
Business Leaders for Michigan
Butzel Long, P.C.
Connect Macomb
Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
Detroit Regional Partnership
LIFT

Macomb County
Macomb County Chamber of Commerce
MichAuto
Michigan Central
Michigan Chamber
Oakland County
Small Business Association of Michigan
Valde Garcia, State Senator (Ret.)

Cc:

Sen. Sarah Anthony, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Rep. Ann Bollin, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Sen. Michael Webber, Co-chair, Michigan Aerospace and Defense Caucus
Rep. Donovan McKinney, Co-chair, Michigan Aerospace and Defense Caucus
Senate Appropriations Committee Members
House Appropriations Committee Members