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January 5, 2010

The Honorable Mayor L.E. "Lyn" Truitt
City of Surprise
16000 North Civic Center Drive
Surprise, AZ 85374

Dear Mayor Truitt:

On behalf of the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am proud to voice our support of Luke Air Force (AFB) Base and the selection of Luke as the new home for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft. Over the last six decades, Luke AFB has played an important role in our community, both economically and socially. Without the presence of Luke AFB and the military families stationed at Luke, our local businesses would be severely impacted.

Luke AFB contributes nearly \$2.1 billion annually to Arizona's economy and has been a consistent and stable economic engine for the West Valley and the State of Arizona. With more than 83,000 individuals in the State of Arizona employed by the military and Luke contributing more than 7,000 jobs to our local economy, it is imperative that all local business owners and residents support the mission at Luke AFB.

As the United States Air Force transitions from the F-16 to the new F-35 joint strike fighter aircraft, we believe that the entire West Valley and the State of Arizona will benefit from the government naming Luke AFB as the new training facility for the F-35 fighter. The infusion of new jobs and millions of dollars into the local economy will positively impact all businesses, both large and small, in and around the Base.

We encourage the Department of Defense to select Luke AFB as the new training site for the F-35 fighter program. The business community surrounding Luke AFB supports the work being done at Luke and looks forward to the positive relationship between the military and local businesses for many years to come.

Sincerely,

David Moss
President/CEO
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce