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November 12, 2009

The Honorable Elaine Scruggs  
Mayor  
City of Glendale  
5850 West Glendale Avenue  
Glendale, AZ 85301


Dear Mayor Scruggs,

As President and CEO of the region's economic development organization, I strongly support the selection of Luke Air Force Base as the new home for F-35 Joint Strike Fighter training. Luke AFB has served as the premier fighter-pilot training base for over 65 years, and continuing this mission is the next logical step.

With Arizona's current economic condition, it is imperative we do everything possible to ensure that our military industry remains one of the largest economic generators in the state. Arizona's military presence entails over 80,000 active-duty personnel, reservists and civilians, and generates \$9.1 billion annually to Arizona's economy. Luke AFB alone contributes \$2.1 billion annually to the state's economy. Should Luke AFB become home to the F-35 training base, Arizona will continue to benefit from a significant economic impact with new jobs, investment and tourism revenue, keeping intact the livelihood for many Arizonans.

Please let me know how I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Barry Bryome  
President and CEO