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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0308

April 2, 2019

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Thornberry,

I write to you to ask that the enclosed Resolution (H.Res. 177) be included in the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

I have introduced a resolution with Congressman Marc Veasey to acknowledge the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter's vital importance to our national security and to encourage Congress' continued support for the program.

We must maintain air superiority in order to preserve global security and stability. Yet, in the past two decades, the U.S. Air Force fighter inventory was cut in half, and most current Air Force fighter aircraft are more than 25 years old.

The National Security Strategy emphasizes building a more lethal force and strengthening alliances, and we cannot afford to risk the security of America or its allies by allowing this program to fall short of its mission.

I urge that you include the text of H.Res. 177 in the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Debbie Lesko

Member of Congress