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JEFF FLORES
SUPERVISOR - THIRD DISTRICT

May 5, 2023

U.S. Speaker Kevin McCarthy
4100 Empire Drive, Suite 150
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Dear Speaker McCarthy,

I offer this letter to express my support of the United States Federal Defense F-35 fighter jet program. This program funded by the National Defense Authorization Act keeps our nation strong by protecting U.S. citizens with air superiority and generating more than 50,000 jobs in California, including approximately 1,400 jobs here in Kern County and additionally generates over \$14 billion in economic activity statewide.

The F-35 must continue to be a Congressional priority, especially with current global instability with international relations. The F-35 remains the most sophisticated fighter jet providing features such as active scanned radars, electro optical targeting systems, and advanced electronic warfare capabilities to track enemy forces and disrupt attacks. Potential foreign aggressors have long acknowledged the United States military as a global defense leader with high level defense equipment in our fleet such as the F-35 fighter jet. The United States must maintain this level of dominance as we strive for global security.

In California, the aerospace industry has declined in the past few decades and evidence shows a decline in availability of manufacturing jobs. Kern County, however, supports the manufacturing industry and recognizes the critical role the manufacturing sector plays in our nation. The F-35 is a prime example of the manufacturing capabilities of the highly skilled workforce we are developing in California.

I urge you and your colleagues in United States Congress to continue supporting the F-35 fighter jet program.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Flores", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Flores
Kern county Supervisor, 3rd District