

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 9

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, TO
3 THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS
4 ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE
5 OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
7 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, the State and the citizens of Idaho have a proud tradition of
10 support for the armed forces of the United States of America; and

11 WHEREAS, the Idaho Air National Guard has distinguished itself in ser-
12 vice to the State of Idaho and to the citizens of our state and the United
13 States of America; and

14 WHEREAS, Gowen Field, located in the City of Boise, Idaho, has served
15 admirably for decades as an effective, world-class military installation,
16 both in federal and state service, as a base of operations for the Idaho Army
17 National Guard and the Idaho Air National Guard; and

18 WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force has chosen Gowen Field among five finalists
19 for two sites to locate squadrons of F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter
20 aircraft; and

21 WHEREAS, Gowen Field is the only finalist for the basing of F-35 air-
22 craft in the western United States; and

23 WHEREAS, Gowen Field, Boise, and southwestern Idaho possess the facil-
24 ities, infrastructure, airspace, climate, landscape, skilled personnel,
25 relevant private-sector industry and strong public support for military
26 operations required to effectively support the siting of F-35 aircraft; and

27 WHEREAS, the Idaho Air National Guard's existing A-10 aircraft flying
28 mission faces the distinct possibility of elimination in the foreseeable fu-
29 ture; and

30 WHEREAS, the economies of Boise, southwestern Idaho and the entire
31 state would be materially damaged by the loss of an Idaho Air National Guard
32 flying mission at Gowen Field, which now provides jobs and career opportuni-
33 ties for thousands of Idaho citizens, both military and civilian; and

34 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the leadership of the State of Idaho to ex-
35 tend its active support to efforts to maintain a viable flying mission for
36 the Idaho Air National Guard, such as that which would be provided by the U.S.
37 Air Force's basing of F-35 aircraft at Gowen Field.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
39 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
40 the Senate concurring therein, that we encourage and call upon the U.S. Air
41 Force, the Administration and Congress to thoroughly and conscientiously
42 evaluate the utility and efficacy of basing a squadron of F-35 Lightning II

1 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho, to facilitate a
2 continued flying mission for the Idaho Air National Guard.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
4 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
5 Memorial to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of the Air
6 Force, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing
8 the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.