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SENATOR JOHN COGHILL

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Joint Resolution No. 14: "Urging the Secretary of the United States Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, and the Commander of the Pacific Air Forces to base F-35 aircraft assigned to the Pacific Air Forces at Eielson Air Force Base."

Eielson Air Force Base ("EAFB") would be an ideal location for the F-35 aircraft. The F-35s will complement the F-22 aircraft already stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson ("JBER").

By Spring 2014, Pacific Air Forces ("PACAF") site survey teams are expected to assess candidate locations in the Asia-Pacific theater for potential placement of F-35s. Eielson Air Force Base, along with other bases world-wide (including international bases in Korea and Japan), are among the expected candidate bases.

PACAF criteria will assess installations based on mission, cost factors, capacity and environmental considerations. Bases will be analyzed against potential impacts to existing missions, housing, operational and training requirements, infrastructure and manpower. The PACAF site survey teams develop cost estimates to bed-down F-35s at each location.

Supporters of our Air Force, including residents from all around Alaska, can expect aggressive national and international competition in order to entice the F-35s. This resolution seeks to honor the historic, strong connection Alaska has with the Air Force, as well as reaffirming Alaska's commitment to our national security.

Please join Senator Coghill in supporting this Resolution.