WEST VALLEY PARTNERS

Protecting the Mission of Luke Air Force Base

February 17, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Giffords:

As we transmit this request, the US Air Force considers Luke Air Force Base (AFB), along with 9 other Bases in the US, for F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Operational and Training missions that would have an Initial Operating Capability by 2014. The West Valley Partners appreciate your support over the years on behalf of Luke AFB to ensure that Luke Air Force Base is optimized for its current mission and positioned for the future.

As Congress begins to consider the President's Budget request for Fiscal Year 2011 Department of Defense spending, we request your consideration of funding items which are critical to Luke's current mission and our ability to sustain its military value while concurrently managing growth in the surrounding region. These items are noted below in a priority listing of projects for which we request your support and advocacy. We urge you and your Delegation colleagues to secure funding for the following projects (in priority):

1. ***(Military Construction) Add $10 million to construct an addition to Luke Communication Center***. The Communications Center upgrade is Luke AFB's #1 military construction inset priority for Fiscal Year 2011. The project would consolidate critical communication functions from 7 inadequate facilities into a single Communications Center. This project provides significant productivity enhancements, operational benefits and infrastructure support costs savings as a result of this centralization. The project demolishes 38,000 square feet of inadequate facilities and constructs 30,000 square foot expansion of the current Communications Center.

2. ***(Air Force Operations & Maintenance – Budget Activity 01 (Operating Forces): Sub-activity: Facilities' Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization (SRM); Line 12450. Add $5.25 million to complete Gila Bend tower and flight operations improvements.*** This will eliminate waivers currently / temporarily in place at Gila Bend

Auxiliary Field. Funding would upgrade equipment and infrastructure for the Gila Bend Air Field Tower which currently operates under a waiver from USAF. The funds would also address some airfield visibility and grading issues which require waivers near ramps and aprons. The ability to conduct operations at Gila Bend without waiver will become of increasing importance as Luke Air Force Base continues to train USAF pilots in Legacy and Future aircraft.

3. ***(Military Construction) Add $7.5 million to construct Emergency Operations Center / Installation Control Center (EOC / ICC) Command Post.*** This project consolidates critical command and control functions enhancing operations as well as anti-terrorism / force protection (AT/FP) security. The project would construct a 10,000-square-foot facility that will enable better emergency operations command, control & intelligence operations and the provision of a coordinated, effective response. The project meets Luke's ATFP requirements while updating capability, and increasing productivity.

4. ***(Air Force Operations & Maintenance – Budget Activity 01 (Operating Forces); Sub-Activity: Air Operations Training; PE: 27604F. Add $3.5 million to complete upgrades to the Sensor Training Area.*** The upgrades have been started with a Fiscal Year 2010 $900,000 appropriation. Prior year funding for Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) improvements have improved the target range and provided moving targets which are of importance for relevant training in the current operation environment, funding has yet to be provided for the Sensor Training Area which will BMGR with a scorable Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) range in enhanced electronic threat simulation environment to replicate threats which pilots will face in Contingency Operations against unconventional forces as well as against more conventional threats from organized nation-state militaries.

The Delegation's support for these key budgetary items is crucial to efforts to support and enhance Luke Air Force Base's contribution to the nation's defense and to our region. They come at a critical juncture as we seek Air Force determinations which could result in a decision this year that places the F-35 "schoolhouse" at Luke, thereby retaining Luke's critical role in training our best fighter pilots and sustaining the substantial contribution which the base makes to our state's economy.

We appreciate your consideration and support of this proposed legislative agenda, and look forward to working with you and your staff in support of Luke.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Max Wilson
District 4, Maricopa County

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers
Avondale

Mayor Jackie Meck
Buckeye

Mayor Ron Henry
Gila Bend

Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs
Glendale

Mayor James M. Cavanaugh
Goodyear

Mayor Thomas Schoaf
Litchfield Park

Mayor Bob Barrett
Peoria

Councilwoman Thelda Williams
District 1, Phoenix

Mayor Lyn Truitt
Surprise

Mayor Adolfo Gamez
Tolleson

Mayor Kelly Blunt
Wickenburg

Mayor Michael LeVault
Youngtown