AMY KLOBUCHAR
MINNESOTA

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COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

19 October 2011

Colonel Frank Stokes
Commander – 148th Fighter Wing
4680 Viper Street
Duluth, MN 55811

Dear friends,

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the dedication of the F-16 Static Display. While I am unable to join you today, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to extend my congratulations to everyone for their part in making this significant occasion a reality.

Construction of this static display may not have been possible several years ago. Together, you have come a long way since BRAC 2005 when you were told the Duluth Air Wing would lose its assigned aircraft, essentially closing the base. As a community, you did not accept that fate. The work of the Duluth Chamber of Commerce and business leaders, performance by airman of the 148th Fighter Wing, and stanch community support were essential ingredients to successfully reverse that decision; retaining the Air Force commitment to Northeastern Minnesota. This display is a visual reminder of that success as well as your proud support for the men and women of the 148th Fighter Wing for the contribution they make each and every day, not only to your Community, but to our state and nation.

Since 1948, the Bulldogs of the 148th have made us proud, compiling a history of superior performance punctuated by seven Outstanding Unit Awards. The unity of effort to construct this display is indicative of the community's sustained commitment to the Wing. The numerous individuals, the array of business professionals, the many contributions of labor and material, and the countless volunteer hours to complete this display says volumes about this very remarkable community, your dedicated support, and your cooperative spirit.

I want to thank you again for inviting me to participate in today's celebration. I appreciate your optimism, share in your excitement, and value your commitment to the Duluth Air Wing. I look forward to another visit with Duluth's very own 148th Bulldogs and I am honored to serve you in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator