



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**  
**WASHINGTON DC**

October 17, 2023

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your September 20, 2023 letter regarding the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Lincoln Laboratory's West Lab Project at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts. Secretary Kendall requested I respond to your letter on his behalf in my role as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering & Force Protection, responsible for Air Force Military Construction.

The Department of the Air Force shares your concerns about the condition of the MIT Lincoln Laboratory Research and Development Center and appreciates your support for the Compound Semi-Conductor Laboratory and Microelectronic Integration Facility (CSL-MIF) and Engineering Prototyping Facility (EPF). Groundbreaking occurred on the CSL-MIF facility in July 2022 but due to significant unforeseen site conditions construction is delayed. The Air Force and Army Corps of Engineers are working closely with the contractor and MIT Lincoln Laboratory to mitigate the schedule impacts and deliver a quality project to meet the Center's critical research needs. We currently anticipate construction completion in October 2026.

The EPF is under design and scheduled to be design complete by October 2024. This project is positioned for execution in fiscal year 2025, with a current working estimate of \$251M. As we finalize design and work through the budgetary process, we anticipate this amount will change.

The Department of the Air Force remains committed to working with you, your staff and the Massachusetts delegation to meet these critical requirements in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner.

Thank you for your continued support of the Department of the Air Force, our Airmen and Guardians. A similar letter has been provided to Senator Markey, Representative Trahan, Representative Moulton, and Representative Clark.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tom D. Miller", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

TOM D. MILLER  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
DCS/Logistics, Engineering, & Force Protection

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2023

The Honorable Frank Kendall  
Secretary of the Air Force  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Kendall:

We write regarding our support for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Lincoln Laboratory's West Lab Project at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts and request an update on the project's progress. While we thank the Air Force for breaking ground on the Compound Semiconductor Laboratory and Microelectronic Integration Facility (CSL-MIF) last July,<sup>1</sup> we want to ensure the successful completion of the Engineering Prototyping Facility (EPF) and that both projects remain on track.

Recognized as a prominent Federally Funded R&D Center, MIT Lincoln Laboratory provides critical support for U.S. national security.<sup>2</sup> The documented facility deterioration threatens its future ability to provide advanced mission-enabling technologies to the military.<sup>3</sup> In fiscal year 2016 the Air Force requested funding for the West Lab Project, made up of two research and development (R&D) facilities,<sup>4</sup> at Hanscom Air Force Base.<sup>5</sup> The budget request came after "seven years of independent third-party and government studies" identifying a need to modernize the over 70-year-old facility housing the MIT Lincoln Laboratory.<sup>6</sup> Funding and completing the West Lab Project will enable the lab to provide its important national security work and continues to hold strong support by Congress.

The West Lab Project consist of two phases, which are equally important. The CSL-MIF will provide the Defense Department with an urgently needed, trusted micro-electronics R&D capability. The CSL-MIF will then be followed by the second phase, the EPF, which will enable rapid prototyping of

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<sup>1</sup> Defense Visual Information Distribution Service, "Groundbreaking for new facility at MIT Lincoln Laboratory held," 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group Public Affairs, July 11, 2022, <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/7314105/groundbreaking-new-facility-mit-lincoln-laboratory-held>.

<sup>2</sup> MIT Lincoln Laboratory, "About," <https://www.ll.mit.edu/about>.

<sup>3</sup> Wicked Local, "Lincoln Laboratory conditions 'highly degraded,' officials chart improvements needed," Ross Crantiello, September 29, 2021, <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/lexington-minuteman/2021/09/29/lincoln-laboratory-conditions-highly-degraded-30-year-plan-shared/5898765001/>.

<sup>4</sup> House Report, *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022*, H.R. 4350, p. 34, <https://www.congress.gov/117/meeting/house/114012/documents/BILLS-117-HR4350-G000559-Amdt-RDYEB1.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory, "Construction contract awarded for new semiconductor facility at MIT Lincoln Laboratory," Ariana Tantillo, January 28, 2022, <https://www.ll.mit.edu/news/construction-contract-awarded-new-semiconductor-facility-mit-lincoln-laboratory>; U.S. Department of the Air Force, Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Estimates, March 2014, <https://www.saffm.hq.af.mil/Portals/84/documents/FY15/AFD-140310-047.pdf?ver=2016-08-24-094601-527>.

<sup>6</sup> Lincoln Laboratory, "New facilities will keep Lincoln Laboratory at the forefront of advanced prototyping," Kylie Foy, April 1, 2019, <https://www.ll.mit.edu/news/new-facilities-will-keep-lincoln-laboratory-forefront-advanced-prototyping>.

advanced technologies. However, we are seeking clarity on future funding for this project given variances in past budget requests for the project.<sup>7</sup> We understand the challenges posed by the construction of the two unique, state-of-the-art facilities, but want to underscore that your engagement with this project has been, and remains, essential to its timely completion.

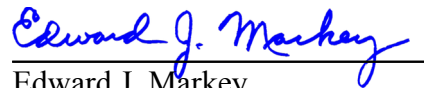
As the construction effort for the West Lab Project proceeds, we request updates on the status of both the CSL-MIF and EPF. Specifically, we ask that you provide by October 3, 2023, (1) an update on the completion schedule for the CSL-MIF project, and (2) an update on the Air Force's budgetary and execution planning for the EPF project.

The Massachusetts delegation thanks you for your support of this critical project and we look forward to hearing from you regarding their status.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



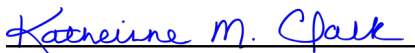
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress

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<sup>7</sup> Department of Defense, FY 2021 Military Construction Total Obligational Authority as Request; Department of Defense, FY 2022 Military Construction Total Obligational Authority as Request. [On File with the Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren]