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To establish a framework for a unified air defense system in the Indo-Pacific region, providing an avenue for strengthened diplomatic and technological ties, resembling the cooperative nature of NATO, and to adjust partner tiers in the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter program.

IN THE SENATE
September 27, 2023

Ms. Poklonskaya (for herself,) introduced the following bill, on behalf of the Rosen Administration, as authored by President Rosen;

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

A BILL

1. Section 1. Title

This act may be cited as the "Indo-Pacific Air Capability and Technology Sharing Act."

2. SEC. 2. Adjustments to the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter Program

2.1. RE-CATEGORIZATION OF PARTNER TIERS.—

- (i) Australia shall be moved from a tier 3 to a tier 2 partner.
- (ii) South Korea (hereafter referred to as "SK") shall be reclassified from a buyer status to a tier 2 partner.
- (iii) Japan shall be reclassified from a buyer status to a tier 2 partner.

2.2. COLLABORATION WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES.—

- (i) All aforementioned partner countries are hereby invited to dispatch a delegation of their premier aeronautics engineers and scientists to collaborate with Lockheed Martin and the United States Air Force within the territory of the United States.

3. SEC. 3. Sales Agreement

3.1. Partner countries, pursuant to this Act, shall be presented an offer to purchase Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II aircraft.—

- (i) The total number of aircraft available for each partner country under this agreement shall not exceed 50 units.
- (ii) Specific allotments for each country shall be determined based on strategic defense evaluations conducted by the Department of Defense.

3.2. PRICING.—

- (i) The price per aircraft shall not be set lower than \$85,000,000.
- (ii) Special financing arrangements and payment plans can be negotiated on a bilateral basis to facilitate the procurement process.

3.3. DELIVERY AND TRAINING.—

- (i) The delivery schedule of the aircraft will be coordinated by Lockheed Martin in consultation with the Department of Defense and the purchasing country.
- (ii) Comprehensive pilot and crew training programs shall be offered in conjunction with aircraft delivery

to ensure effective deployment and operation of the units.

4. SEC. 4. Implementation and Oversight

- 4.1. The Department of Defense, in collaboration with the Department of State, shall oversee the implementation of this act.
- 4.2. Necessary adjustments, guidelines, and protocols to actualize the provisions herein shall be formulated by the above-named departments within 90 days of this act's passage.
- 4.3. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, is hereby authorized to promulgate additional rules and regulations to facilitate the smooth execution of this act, especially in areas of international coordination, strategic alignment, and technology sharing.

5. SEC. 5. Effective Date

This Act shall take effect immediately after its enactment.