

**CONGRESSMAN MATT GAETZ  
FLORIDA'S FIRST DISTRICT**



**NEWS RELEASE**

226 S. Palafox PL., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, PENSACOLA, FL 32502  
Phone: (850) 479-1183 Fax: (850) 479-9394

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 11, 2017

CONTACT: Kavontae Smalls  
(850) 479-1183

**FLORIDA DISTRICT 1 UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTS GAETZ'S PUSH FOR  
GULF TEST RANGE EXPANSION**

**May 11, 2017**

PENSACOLA, FL -- The County Commissions from each of the five counties in Florida's First Congressional District — Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton and Holmes — have signed resolutions in support of Congressman Matt Gaetz's push for \$30 million in increased funding to the Gulf Test Range, a 120,000-square-mile area of overwater airspace extending from the Florida panhandle to the Florida Keys.

Military air training operations are currently constrained to the northern portion of the Gulf of Mexico, due south of Eglin Air Force Base, resulting in substantial aircraft congestion and a reduction of mission-critical training flights. A recent study revealed that aircraft congestion has prevented at least 80 training missions per year, and has kept numerous F-35 and F-22 warfighters from undertaking mission-relevant training.

Congressman Gaetz has sought increased funding for the Gulf Test Range since his arrival in Congress in January of 2017, where he quickly developed a reputation for his tenacity and his vocal support of the armed forces. When asked about his request for \$30 million for the Gulf Test Range, Gaetz said: "Military training is crucial to our national defense. Unfortunately, this training has been hindered by congestion and geographical limitations. This is unacceptable. We must expand and modernize the Gulf Test Range, so we can better train America's next generation of heroes. The more they prepare on the training field, the more effective they'll be on the battlefield. They fight for our freedom. I want to fight for their success."

**CONGRESSMAN MATT GAETZ  
FLORIDA'S FIRST DISTRICT**



**NEWS RELEASE**

226 S. Palafox PL., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, PENSACOLA, FL 32502  
Phone: (850) 479-1183 Fax: (850) 479-9394

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 11, 2017

**CONTACT:** Kavontae Smalls  
(850) 479-1183

Congressman Gaetz thanked the County Commissions for supporting his efforts to bolster the ability and readiness of our military. He says that he plans to keep pressuring Congress for increased funding for the Gulf Test Range until it becomes a reality: "The brave men and women in our military don't stop working until the job is done. Neither will I."

For more information, please contact Communications Director, Kavontae Smalls (850) 630-1749.

###