

Letter on Impact on Affordable Housing

Dear Mr. Ramon Ortiz,

I am opposed to the Air Force Proposal to station F-35A fighter jets in Madison, Wisconsin because of the disproportionate effects on low income neighborhoods and people of color. Given Madison's current high cost of housing and limited availability, affordable housing that surrounds Truax Air National Guard Base is vital to our community.

The current proposal will significantly hurt low-income individuals accessing affordable housing on both the North and Eastside of Madison. With housing costs rapidly rising across Madison, these areas play an important role in Madison's overall housing picture and the city's mission to provide more affordable housing. A recent news report by the Wisconsin State Journal found though people of color make up 5% of our Dane County community, they account for 50% of homeless individuals. Additionally, people of color have a much harder time securing housing in our community. Preserving these as livable neighborhoods going forward is certainly in Madison's best interest and this proposal significantly disadvantages these efforts in preserving and creating affordable neighborhoods. There is no guarantee that these housing units will be eligible for federal sound proofing funds.

Access to housing in Madison is challenging enough for low income communities, this proposal will diminish housing opportunities for the low income community in Madison. I oppose the F-35 military jets being based in my community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Letter on Kids and Schools Impacted

Dear Mr. Ramon Ortiz,

I am opposed to the Air Force Proposal to station F-35A fighter jets in Madison, Wisconsin because of its impact on K-12 schools surrounding the Truax Air National Guard base.

There are about a dozen K-12 schools and as many as 15 daycare facilities that will be effected by this proposal. Several of these schools and daycare facilities serve high populations of children of color, children who participate in English Language learner programs or children who participate in special education programs. The EIS specifically recognizes that "While there are many factors that can contribute to learning deficits in school-aged children, there is increasing awareness that chronic exposure to high aircraft noise levels may impair learning." This awareness has lead groups including the World Health Organization to conclude that "daycare centers and schools should not be located near major sources of noise, such as highways, airports and industrial sites." Many of these schools and daycares will not be eligible for mitigation funds from the FAA, should they be secured, leaving them vulnerable to the effects of the additional noise from the F-35s. Our children have a right to learn and not be constantly disrupted and distracted by these planes.

The children of the north and eastside of Madison have a right to learn in an environment that is free from harmful noise pollution from these jets. I oppose the F-35 military jets being based in my community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Letter on the Environmental Impact

Dear Mr. Ramon Ortiz,

I am opposed to the Air Force Proposal to station F-35A fighter jets in Madison, Wisconsin because of the impact it will have on the environment in my community.

The Truax Air National Guard base has been identified as a significant contributor to toxic chemical contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyls, or PFAs, which are groups of chemicals found in firefighting foam and other water resistant items. PFA contamination from the Truax base has already shut down City Well 15 and is a significant contributor to the PFA contamination in Starkweather Creek. Requests by the Wisconsin DNR for immediate further investigation of the extent of the contamination have not been headed by the Department of Defense, because Truax is not considered a “priority” site for mitigation. The Madison Water Utility has called for the Air Force to fully investigate and define the area of contamination, stating “This is not an acceptable position for Madison and its residents, who rightfully expect to have clean and safe drinking water available to them without bearing the high cost of additionally treating or replacing productive drinking water wells.” A City of Madison analysis also cites that “It is anticipated PFAs from the 115 Fighter Wing will continue to contaminate the City of Madison unit well #15 for decades to come” (Page 6).

This proposal will further harm my community and our access to a healthy environment. There has already been enough harm to our environment. I oppose the F-35 military jets being based in my community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Letter on Impact on Communities of Color

Dear Mr. Ramon Ortiz,

I am opposed to the Air Force Proposal to station F-35A fighter jets in Madison, Wisconsin because of the impact these jets will have on communities of color. The EIS has not adequately taken into consideration the overarching effects that people of color will face with this proposal.

One of the most effected neighborhoods, Carpenter Ridgeway is comprised of 43.9% persons of color. This neighborhood is expected to reach high decibels of 114dB with the new F-35s, one of the highest noise intensity listed in the EIS. Though the EIS specifically states that communities of color will be disproportionately impacted by F-35s, an analysis done by the City of Madison concludes that the EIS “understated” the impact. “While the EIS acknowledges it has a disproportional impact on persons of color, its methodology results in this issue being understated.” For far too long, Madison has grappled with racial disparities in our city, these jets will continue to cause harm to our most vulnerable communities. Why should communities of color not be able to open their windows and doors on warm summer days, enjoy outside recreational play spaces without being blasted out of their homes? Further, communities of color will have a harder time securing alternative housing to escape the significant noise generated by F-35s.

These jets will continue to perpetuate racial disparities in the Madison area. These jets do not belong in our community. I oppose the F-35 military jets being based in my community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

General Letter on Noise Impact

Dear Mr. Ramon Ortiz,

I am opposed to the Air Force Proposal to station F-35A fighter jets in Madison, Wisconsin because of the impact these jets will have on my community. The increased noise and operations will have a detrimental effect on the north and eastside of Madison.

This proposal will have many negative effects on our community. The area surrounding Truax Air National Guard base is a densely populated, residential area. The F-35s are projected to be significantly louder than the F-16s that fly over our community currently. These jets are too loud for an area like Madison. In addition to the increased noise from the F-35s, there will be a 47% increase in flights as the F-16s and F-35s, the Air force plans to fly simultaneously. This will only lead to even more intense noise for our community. There are many other places to put these military jets that do not have the same negative impacts that they will have in Madison. The U.S. Air Force has said that it will only create 64 jobs and that the economic impact will be negligible. The destruction these jets will cause our north and eastside neighborhoods is not worth it.

These planes do not belong in a densely populated area. The negative effects they bring should not disrupt the lives of thousands of people. I oppose the F-35 military jets being based in my community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]