

# Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin

State Representative Chris Taylor:

*“The community I represent does not want F-35s, they’ve made it loud and clear.”*

The U.S. Air Force has selected Truax Field in Madison as a preferred location for a squadron of new F-35 fighter jets. The environmental impact statement (EIS) completed by the Air Force has evaluated five sites. The EIS shows that Madison is the worst location for these new jets since it will have the greatest environmental impacts.

## Why is this project a disaster?

Environmental Justice – The EIS concludes that in Madison “there will be significant disproportionate impacts to low-income and minority populations as well as children.”

Impact on Children – The EIS concludes that in Madison the new jets will “disproportionately impact children.”

Environmental Racism - The people most impacted are the people of color who live adjacent to Truax Field where they comprise more than 50% of the residents.

Unacceptable Noise – The new F-35 jets can be four times louder than the current F-16 jets. There will be a 47% increase in fighter jet flights in Madison up to 7,190 per year.

Outdated Standards – The Air Force used a 50-year old noise standard but still estimated that nearly 2,800 people and 1,300 households would live in areas considered “incompatible for residential use.” This outdated noise standard ignores the many health and cognitive impacts of noise exposure, especially to children.

Polluter will Not Pay – The Air Force will not provide any funds for noise mitigation. We estimate \$26 million will be needed to insulate only homes, not businesses or schools. It will cost \$226 million to purchase these homes and relocate residents.

Loss of Affordable Housing – Madison wants affordable housing, but these jets will make our city less desirable for new construction, require that existing homes be demolished, and diminish the availability of affordable housing.

Existing Contamination Remains – The Air National Guard (ANG) at Truax Field has contaminated our groundwater and Starkweather Creek with PFAS, forcing the closure of Well 15 which serve 15,000 residents. ANG has failed to investigate and cleanup its contamination. Similar contamination in Marinette is estimated to cost \$140 million.

Nuclear Weapons – The F-35’s are first strike jets capable of carrying nuclear weapons. The Air Force has ignored Madison’s designation as a “nuclear free zone”.

More Dangerous Accidents – The F-35 will be made of triple the composite materials as the F-16, so fires would generate toxic fumes and airborne respirable fibers. The current F-16 jets have dumped their fuel tanks into our lakes. The F-35 will carry twice the fuel.

Minimal Economic Benefit – The new jets will cost of \$2 billion but will create only 64 local jobs. These won’t be filled by people from adjacent low-income neighborhoods.

More Air Pollution – With more training flights, there will be more emissions dispersed into surrounding neighborhoods. No analysis has been done to estimate the types of chemicals released into the air or the exposure and harm to adjacent residents.

Future of Truax – The Air Force says Truax Field will survive without these jets. There are many other missions the ANG could pursue with far less negative impact.

An Extraordinary Waste – President Eisenhower warned us of the voracious appetite of the military industrial complex. The national F-35 fighter jet program will cost \$1 trillion, \$80 million for each plane and \$42,000 per hour of operation. These resources could be used to improve our lives rather promote warfare. Greed is a powerful motivator and it has come to threaten our city.

Join your Neighbors – State Rep. Chris Taylor, Madison Common Council, Madison Metro School Board, Dane County Supervisors, Madison Water Utility, Sustainable Madison Committee, Madison Community Development Authority, neighborhood associations, local businesses, local parent-teacher organizations and many concerned neighbors oppose or question the siting of these F-35 jets in Madison.

## What is the Schedule?

February 2020 – Air Force publishes final EIS.

March 2020 – Air Force selects the two bases to receive the F-35.

## Can we stop the F-35 jets?

The people of Burlington, Vermont successfully convinced the Air Force to remove their city from consideration. But their powerful senator, Patrick Leahy, demanded the Air Force site the jets in Burlington. We too can convince the Air Force it is a terrible idea to site the F-35 jets here, but we’ll need our Senator Tammy Baldwin to oppose them too.

## What can you do?

Contact Senator Tammy Baldwin (608-264-5338), Representative Mark Pocan (608-258-9800), County Executive Joe Parisi (parisi@countyofdane.com), and Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway (mayor@cityofmadison.com). Tell them you oppose this project.

## How do I keep updated?

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