

Senate District 16 Candidate Responses to Safe Skies Questions
(Currently held by Mark Miller)

1 - Earlier this year, the Air Force selected Truax Field in Madison to receive a squadron of F-35 fighter jets by 2023. How were you involved in the local response to the proposal to bring these jets to Madison?

Mellissa Sargent – No response.

Andrew McKinney - I was not personally involved with this proposal.

Scott Barker – No response.

2 - This fall, the Air National Guard will begin construction at Truax Field to accommodate their new F-35 fighter jets. Do you support the state and Wisconsin DNR stopping all construction at Truax Field until there is a complete investigation and approved cleanup plan for the PFAS contamination in groundwater, Starkweather Creek and Lake Monona caused by airport and Truax Field operations? If you support stopping construction, how would you achieve this goal?

Mellissa Sargent – No response.

Andrew McKinney - I would like for an approval cleanup plan to stop pollution. Our low income communities have been subjected to living with pollution because of the socio economic barriers and disparities in association with these communities and the health outcomes that come with the inability to speak out and up for themselves . It's unfortunate that construction will go on, but Sen. Ron Johnson and Sen. Tammy Baldwin needs to relook at this process, for the underserved people in this district.

Scott Barker – No response.

3 - The current mission of the Wisconsin Air National Guard at Truax Field is training fighter jet pilots. There are 43 other missions available to Truax Field including engineering, scientific and medical missions which are more compatible with the surrounding populated urban area. Will you push for the Wisconsin National Guard and Governor Evers to obtain a new mission for Truax Field? If you support a new mission, how would you achieve this goal?

Mellissa Sargent – No response.

Andrew McKinney - As a veteran, I believe that 43 missions per year is too much! I would like an explanation on why there is a need for these missions. Again, this comes from the federal level and I would work with Gov. Evers to obtain all information on these missions.

Scott Barker – No response.

4 - The selection of Truax Field for the new F-35 fighter jets would not be possible without the support of Senator Tammy Baldwin. Will you demand that she reverse her support for stationing the new F-35 jets at Truax Field?

Mellissa Sargent – No response.

Andrew McKinney - I would like her to explain why, at the federal level, did you support this without listening to the people who live in this area. As I grew up in Gary, Indiana, I was raised in all types of pollution, where low-income and families of color never had a voice because not one bothered to reach out to them to engage them in a conversation. I feel like a similar situation took place regarding the F-35's. There were voices and momentum from the surrounding communities but in speaking with the communities, I feel that it was too little too late, that decisions were already pushed through on the Federal level. This saddens me because it happened to a community similar to mine, low income communities are more likely to be subjected to living with pollution because of the socio economic barriers and disparities in association with these communities and the health outcomes that come with the inability to speak out and up for themselves .

Scott Barker – No response.

5 - Truax Field was selected for the new F-35 fighter jets despite the greatest impacts falling on low-income and families of color living adjacent to the base. Will you promote the creation of an environmental justice office at the Wisconsin DNR to help protect residents from environmental injustice and environmental racism?

Mellissa Sargent – No response.

Andrew McKinney - In order to help protect Madison neighborhoods, schools and businesses impacted by aircraft operations and the F-35, I support creating a clean energy jobs that includes good paying union jobs and apprenticeships to install green roofs and green infrastructure, perform deep energy efficiencies of homes and businesses to improve sound insulation, reduce carbon emissions, and reduce urban runoff and flooding. Also, I would promote the creation of an environmental justice office at the Wisconsin DNR to oversee these opportunities.

Scott Barker – No response.