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2 2019 RES-548  
3 Opposing the Siting of F35A Squadron at Truax Air Field  
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5 In February 2020, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) released its Final Environmental Impact Statement  
6 (EIS) for the F35A Operational Beddown Air National Guard (ANG) (“Proposed Action”) for five  
7 alternative locations, including the 115th Fighter Wing (115 FW) at Dane County Regional  
8 Airport, Madison, Wisconsin. The USAF received 5,706 comments during the public comment  
9 period in response to the Proposed Action in Madison, Wisconsin. Since the public scoping  
10 period began in 2018, many community groups and government agencies have publicly  
11 communicated their concerns with the Proposed Action. Among them are:  
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13 American Federation of Teachers – Wisconsin  
14 Barrymore Theater  
15 Building Unity Wisconsin  
16 Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger  
17 City-County Homeless Issues Committee  
18 Community Development Authority of the City of Madison  
19 Eastmorland Neighborhood Association  
20 Eken Park Neighborhood Association  
21 Emerson East Neighborhood Association of Madison  
22 Families for Justice – Dane County  
23 Family Farm Defenders  
24 First Unitarian Society of Madison  
25 Four Lakes Green Party  
26 Friends of Starkweather Creek  
27 Harambee Village Douglas  
28 Interfaith Peace Working Group  
29 James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Justice Leadership Team  
30 Madison Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority  
31 Madison Arcatao Sister City Project  
32 Madison Area Urban Ministry  
33 Madison Common Council  
34 Madison Chapter of the National Organization for Women  
35 Madison Friends Meeting – Quakers  
36 Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education  
37 Madison Water Utility Board  
38 Madison, WI Institutes for the Healing of Racism  
39 Marquette Neighborhood Association  
40 Midwest Environmental Advocates  
41 Midwest Environmental Justice Organization (MEJO)  
42 Mother’s Milk Alliance  
43 No New Stadium – Madison  
44 Northside Planning Council  
45 People’s Green New Deal  
46 Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin  
47 P.O.W.E.R.S – Pregnancy Options, Wisconsin – Education, Resources, and Support  
48 Progressive Dane  
49 Safe Skies Action Faction  
50 Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association

51 Solidarity Realty  
52 SouthWest Wisconsin Area Progressives  
53 Sustainable Madison Committee  
54 The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
55 Local 171  
56 United Faculty Academic Staff (AFT 223 Union) at UW Madison  
57 Veterans for Peace-Madison  
58 WI Chapter of National Association of Social Workers  
59 Wild Warner: Advocates of Wildlife and Nature  
60 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
61 Wisconsin Environmental Health Network  
62 Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
63 Wisconsin Greens  
64 Wisconsin Network for Peace, Justice & Sustainability  
65 WORT-FM Radio  
66 YWCA Madison

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68 The Final EIS confirmed concerns that 15 supervisors communicated in September 2019 to the  
69 USAF in response to the draft EIS released in August 2019.  
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71 The Final EIS, at page 16 of the Executive Summary, confirms that the change in the noise  
72 environment for nearby residents is significant. “The number of households located within the  
73 65 dB DNL contour would increase by 1,019 and the number of people exposed would increase  
74 by 2,215. One hundred thirty-two of the households and 292 persons would be located in the  
75 70-75 DNL contour where housing is incompatible absent an exception.”

76 The Final EIS, at page 26-27 of the Executive Summary, confirms the environmental racism  
77 associated with siting the F35A in the dense urban environment surrounding Dane County  
78 Regional Airport. “There would be significant disproportionate impacts to low-income and minority  
79 populations as well as children. The increase in noise exposure to the south of the airport would  
80 disproportionately impact low-income areas and the increase in noise exposure to the east of the  
81 airport would disproportionately impact a low-income minority population. In addition, the  
82 Proposed Action could disproportionately impact children.” Nearly every impacted area within the  
83 City of Madison belongs to a census tract with rates of persons of color, as well as poverty rates,  
84 well above the city- and county-wide averages.  
85

86 The USAF is prohibited from funding noise abatement of property that is not under its direct  
87 control. While noise mitigation funds are available to the Dane County Regional Airport through  
88 the Federal Aviation Administration Title 14 CFR, Part 150 Program, property owners living  
89 outside the 65 dB DNL contour are not eligible for those funds and the Part 150 program is “not  
90 a guarantee that sound mitigation or abatement will take place”. ES-18, WI-18.  
91

92 Nearly 800 subsidized low-income housing units are located within 1,500 feet of the 65 dB DNL  
93 contour. These include the CDA Truax housing, CDA Webb-Rethke townhomes, and Rethke  
94 Terrace. Rethke Terrace is a 60 unit permanent supportive housing building that are homes to  
95 formerly homeless veterans and chronically homeless individuals with disabilities. There are over  
96 300 units of mobile homes in the impacted area. FAA rules restrict funding for sound mitigation to  
97 permanent structures and likely exclude mobile homes from receiving mitigation assistance.  
98

99 Additionally, Dane County holds aviation easements, many of which were purchased decades  
100 ago, which have stripped current residents near the airport from pursuing claims based on airport  
101 noise. Dane County has not committed any resources to these residents nor any other Dane  
102 County residents or property owners for noise mitigation related to the Proposed Action.

103  
104 Should Dane County Regional Airport voluntarily apply for federal funding and receive funds  
105 pursuant to the years-long Part 150 Program process, funds will not be available when the noise  
106 impacts are most significant during the period of time when there is a 47% increase in military  
107 operations at the airfield due to the combined flights of F16 and F35. The 65 dB Day Night  
108 Average Sound Level (DNL) noise standard used by the EIS does not account for the adverse  
109 impacts of noise, including additional stress, sleep disturbance, and a reduction in the educational  
110 performance of children.

111  
112 The USAF Proposed Action includes construction and soil disturbance of 212,883 SF (4.9 acres)  
113 of land which would take place in 2020. WI-DNR, in its October 30, 2019 letter to USAF, stated  
114 that “all planned construction projects will require a site investigation to determine whether PFAS  
115 contamination is present prior to construction.” The Final EIS does not commit to a complete site  
116 investigation prior to construction.

117 Construction prior to a complete site investigation risks further contamination of our groundwater  
118 with PFAS substances.

119  
120 Finally, the Final EIS confirms the F35 aircraft would increase CO2 equivalent emissions by  
121 approximately 12,478 tons or 135 percent, equivalent to adding 2,438 more passenger vehicles  
122 onto roads, driving 11,500 miles per year on average. WI-53.

123  
124 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Dane County opposes the basing of a squadron of F-  
125 35A fighter jets at Truax Field because it is contrary to Dane County’s strong commitment to racial  
126 equity and social justice, clean air and water, and preventing and ending homelessness.

127  
128 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Dane County Corporation Counsel shall prepare a legal opinion  
129 for the Dane County Board on all potential legal strategies within the County’s authority for  
130 preventing the Proposed Action and mitigating the impact of the Proposed Action.

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132 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Secretary of the U.S.  
133 Air Force Barbara Barrett, Asst. Secretary John Henderson, Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron  
134 Johnson, U.S. Representative Mark Pocan, Governor Tony Evers, Interim Adjutant General Brig.  
135 Gen. Joane K. Mathews, and State Senators and Representatives serving Dane County in the  
136 State Legislature.