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2 Sub. 1 to 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 National Association of Social Workers – Wisconsin Chapter
44 No New Stadium – Madison
45 Northside Planning Council
46 People’s Green New Deal
47 Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin
48 P.O.W.E.R.S – Pregnancy Options, Wisconsin – Education, Resources, and Support
49 Progressive Dane
50 Safe Skies Action Faction
51 Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association

52 Solidarity Realty
53 SouthWest Wisconsin Area Progressives
54 Sustainable Madison Committee
55 The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
56 Local 171
57 United Faculty Academic Staff (AFT 223 Union) at UW Madison
58 Veterans for Peace-Madison
59 WI Chapter of National Association of Social Workers
60 Wild Warner: Advocates of Wildlife and Nature
61 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
62 Wisconsin Environmental Health Network
63 Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
64 Wisconsin Greens
65 Wisconsin Network for Peace, Justice & Sustainability
66 WORT-FM Radio
67 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.

70
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.

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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.

On March 12, 2020 the Environment, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee amended this resolution as follows:

A motion was made by Chair RITT, seconded by CHAWLA to recommend that the resolution be approved.

A motion was made by CHAWLA, seconded by Chair RITT, that the resolution be amended by inserting "National Association of Social Workers - Wisconsin Chapter" after line 42. The motion carried by the following vote: 4/0 (DOWNING abstained), YGP: 1/0

Chair RITT moved approval of the original motion. The resolution was recommended for approval as amended. The motion carried by the following vote: 3/1 (LEVIN no, DOWNING abstained) YGP: 1/0