



**CHRIS TAYLOR**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 76th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release**

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Rep. Chris Taylor, 608-266-5342

## **Air Force Ignores Severe Negative Consequences in Basing F-35s in Madison**

MADISON – Today, the United States Air Force announced that it selected the Truax Air National Guard Base in Madison for basing new F-35 military jets. This selection was made despite significant opposition from the local community and the Madison City Council in addition to the Air Force’s own findings that the proposal would have significant negative consequences for Madison’s densely populated communities.

Rep. Chris Taylor issued the following statement:

“Despite the Air Force’s own findings that siting F-35 military jets at Truax Field would have ‘significant adverse impacts’ that will disproportionately affect children, people of color and families earning low incomes, they have made the unfortunate and harmful decision to move forward in basing noisy F-35 fighter jets in Madison. The Air Force’s own Environmental Impact Statement showed that out of the five locations under consideration, the people, land and water of Madison would suffer the worst impacts.

“Since the Draft EIS was released last August, members of our community have evaluated what this proposal meant for their families, schools, businesses, and communities. And unfortunately, the Final EIS, which was released in February, only confirmed what many of us already knew: that these jets are wrong for our community. The impacts described in the Final EIS will only worsen the severe racial disparities that plague our city and county, threaten to further denigrate our water resources and harm our communities.

“We have seen the local community speak out against this proposal, and I know they will continue to do so because they know this decision will hinder their health, quality of life and livelihoods. The negative results include the depreciation of property values, which we believe is underestimated in the Final EIS, the PFAS contamination of our soil and our drinking water, and the negative consequences for children in local daycares and schools. The concerns of Madison residents have been ignored by the Air Force in this reckless decision.

“It is absolutely shameful that the Air Force is insisting on placing these jets, which typically have not been put smack in the middle of a city, in densely populated communities that will be severely harmed. An estimated 60,000 individuals live within three miles of the airport. Instead of listening to our community, the Air Force is intent on foisting these jets on a place they are not wanted. I know our community will continue to pursue all avenues, including legal action, to prevent this ill-advised decision from going forward to prevent the intense harm to our community the Air Force has sadly ignored. Though the Air Force has failed us today, I am heartened by the advocacy and steadfastness of my community, and I hope that all levels of our government do what is needed to protect the well-being of all Madison residents.”

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