

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 11, 2025

Patrick O'Brien
Director
Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation
U.S. Department of Defense
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 520
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Director O'Brien,

I write to you today to express my disappointment regarding your recent decision to deny the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs' application for noise mitigation funding through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, and to invite you or other officials from your office to visit Madison to hear directly from residents who could have benefitted from this funding and explain your decision to them personally.

Last year, The Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs submitted a grant application to the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation for over \$18 million to help residents in east Madison, who are affected by elevated noise levels from the presence of F-35 fighter jets at Truax Field, access funding assistance to help dampen the noise of the jets. If funded, this effort would have allowed for better insulation in over 160 homes to help cushion the noise, as well as new windows or HVAC systems.

Since the decision to place F-35 fighter jets at Truax Field in 2020, my office has repeatedly been in touch with the Department of Defense to express my concerns about what impact the noise from these jets could have on local residents, their homes, and local businesses. In the years since, residents have reported consistent and significant concerns with the noise levels to my office, along with fears that prolonged exposure could lead to property damage or negative health impacts.

In Fiscal Year 2021, my office worked to ensure \$50 million was appropriated for the Noise Mitigation Community Partnership Program to ensure that affected residents in east Madison could receive some assistance to make necessary modifications to their homes to dampen the noise and improve their quality of life. Therefore, I was deeply disappointed by the recent announcement that the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs' application for noise mitigation funding was denied.

Given the direct effect this has had on my constituents, I request a detailed explanation to my office regarding the decision to deny this grant application, and additionally request that you send an official to visit Madison to meet with residents who have been affected by elevated noise levels and provide an explanation of your decision directly to them.

A site visit would provide an invaluable opportunity not only to witness firsthand the impact of noise pollution in the area and hear from residents who are living with it daily, but also to help facilitate a collaborative discussion around potential solutions and future funding opportunities.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pocan', with a stylized circular flourish at the end.

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress