

# CODEPINK

CODEPINK: Women For Peace

578 Washington Blvd. #395

Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

President Biden & Members of the United States Congress,

We, the undersigned organizations from around the world, are calling for a cancellation of the F-35 program, an end to F-35 training in residential areas like South Burlington, Vermont and Madison, Wisconsin, and a reinvestment of the project's funds to life-affirming programs. We are making these demands based on the harm caused abroad, cost of the program to the taxpayer, inefficiencies and failures, the environmental impact of F-35s, and the effects training has on local communities.

## HARM CAUSED THROUGH MILITARISM

We primarily stand firmly against the F-35 as a weapon of war. Although not ready for full-scale production, the U.S. intends on producing countless F-35s to sell around the world that will without a doubt be used to harm people living in the Global South. F-35s have the capacity to carry nuclear weapons, and the deployment of these jets only aids nuclear proliferation. The U.S. already makes up 40% of the global arms trade, aiding and abetting war crimes all over the world. Israel is procuring F-35's from the United States which have already been used to launch airstrikes on Gaza to further Israel's goals of ethnic cleansing and displacement in Palestine. Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in F-35s as well as the UAE while both countries wage a brutal war on Yemen. The F-35 is a disaster of a project, but also a potential disaster for humanity.

## INEFFICIENCIES AND FAILURES

The F-35 spending is becoming impossible for important members of Congress to justify. The Chair of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Adam Smith called the F-35 a "rathole." Another member of HASC, Rep. John Garamendi had some scathing comments about the F-35 in a HASC subcommittee hearing in May:

"For the contractors out there, what are you doing? You should never have a contract. And for Lockheed, you want a five-year maintenance contract? You can't do what you're doing today. Come on. What are we thinking? If I have not adequately expressed my frustration, I would assume that my frustration is less than the frustration of the pilots and the maintainers out there. ... The primary maintenance responsibility on this is Lockheed and you gentlemen."

The Government Accountability Office said the F-35 “continues to fall short of prescribed mission-capable rates and is consistently missing reliability targets”. According to the GAO, the F-35A in 2021 was fully mission capable 50% of the time, while the F-35B was fully mission capable less than 20 percent of the time. The F-35c was only capable 9.5% of the time.

The signatories call attention to the failures of the program to address harmful projects seeing never ending investment while programs that protect people such as universal healthcare never see the light of day.

### COST TO THE TAXPAYER

The failures of the program make the spending impossible to justify, even from a militaristic standpoint. The F-35 program is the Department of Defense’s most expensive weapon system program. As of now, the F-35’s projected total cost is \$1.7 trillion, which includes \$1.3 trillion in estimated operations and sustainment over 66 years. The F-35 is horribly behind schedule, experiencing massive cost overruns with maintenance costs doubling. The F-35 is not ready for full scale production. According to the GAO, “if DOD moves forward as planned, it will have bought a third of all F-35s before determining that the aircraft is ready to move into full-rate production.” Spending billions to trillions of dollars on a plane that is not yet up to speed with what the government has requested is poor fiscal policy.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

F-35s also have a significant impact on the environment with their high carbon emissions and pollution on local bases. The F-35 uses a significant amount of fuel – about 2.37 gallons of fuel for every mile traveled and around 1,340 gallons of fuel per hour. This is particularly egregious compared to the F-35’s predecessor, the F-16, which used at least 415 gallons of fuel per hour less. One single F-35 tank of gas produces the equivalent of 28 metric tons of carbon dioxide. These emissions heavily pollute air and water sources in basing locations in the U.S. and abroad. Base site construction for F-35 training in the U.S. has also disregarded the need for environmental remediation of pre-existing contaminants such as PFAS, risking further pollution of surrounding communities. F35 pollution is an environmental justice issue, as they are disproportionately tested, trained, and deployed in low-income communities of color.

These environmental impacts do not even account for the role of the plane in active combat. As they’re deployed around the world, we see Lockheed Martin’s jets subjecting communities globally to egregious noise levels, environmental contamination, and the risk of nuclear warfare. The F-35 is also a part of the U.S. strategic nuclear bomber force, possessing the capability to carry and deploy the B61-12 guided nuclear bomb. If deployed, this bomb - and all other nuclear weapons - would have catastrophic long-term environmental consequences.

### EFFECT ON U.S. LOCALS

Currently, F-35 training in Vermont disrupts the lives of working-class people. The training is irregular and Vermonters go without warning of when these trainings will take place. The noise caused by the F-35 hits 115 decibels which especially hurts and injures infants and children, the elderly, and the disabled. The F-35 has 300 to 600 takeoffs and landings a month.

Let's consider the City of Winooski, VT. More than half the city is within the US Air Force designated 5.2 mile by 1.2 mile oval-shaped F-35 noise target zone centered on the runway. Winooski is a working-class city, the most densely populated in Vermont, with the state's most ethnic diversity. As reported by the US Air Force itself in 2013, repeated exposure to military aircraft noise at the level of the F-35, can damage hearing. The Air Force also reported that the much lower aircraft noise level produced by civilian aircraft was still sufficient to impair the learning and cognitive development of children living in the flight path of heavily used commercial airports. The US Air Force identified the entire oval-shaped noise target zone as an area "generally considered unsuitable for residential use." So it was no secret for the state's political and military leaders that locating the F-35 at BTV would cause pain and injury to children and adults on a mass scale. In Madison, where the F-35's are likely to end up starting in the next few years, Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin has identified the following risks to children as a result of loud noise and air pollution:

- Preterm or low birth weights
- Delayed speech development
- Hearing loss
- Interference with concentration, long term memory, reading and math comprehension

In addition, adults as well as children would face increased risk of:

- Stress hormones that cause sleep disturbances
- Anxiety
- PTSD
- Asthma
- Cancer
- Heart disease
- Strokes

For all the aforementioned reasons, we, the undersigned organizations, reject the government's reckless over investment in the F-35 program and demand its immediate cancellation. The costs of this program to the taxpayer, the environment, local communities, and the communities upon which the US and its allies will wage war are too high to justify. It is time for the government to prioritize the welfare of human beings and the planet over military superiority and the weapons industry's profits.

We call on our policy makers to cancel the F-35 program, cancel training within the U.S. and reinvest that money into universal healthcare, student debt forgiveness, housing guarantees and more.

Sincerely,

CODEPINK: Women For Peace

Roger Waters, Co-Founder of Pink Floyd

Ben Cohen, Co-Founder of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream

Noam Chomsky, Linguist

Medea Benjamin, Co-Founder of CODEPINK

Jodie Evans, Co-Founder of CODEPINK

Abby Martin, Journalist

Bill Ayers, Activist/Professor of Education

Bernardine Dohrn, Activist/Law Professor

**And the undersigned 229 organizations**

**BELGIUM:**

Vredesactie

**CANADA:**

Boundary Peace Initiative

Canadian Foreign Policy  
Institute

Canadian Voice of Women  
for Peace

Conscience Canada

Fire This Time Movement  
for Social Justice, Canada

Global Peace Alliance  
Society

Gravelbourg & District  
Tribune Weekly

Newspaper

Hamilton Coalition To

Stop The War

Just Peace

Advocates/Mouvement

Pour Une Paix Juste

Montréal for a World

BEYOND War

Nova Scotia Voice of  
Women for Peace

Pax Christi Toronto,  
Canada

Peace Alliance Winnipeg  
Regina Peace Council  
Socialist Action / Ligue  
pour l'Action socialiste,  
Canada

Victoria Peace Coalition  
Winnipeg Branch

Association of United  
Ukrainian Canadians

Women's International  
League for Peace and  
Freedom Canada

World BEYOND War -  
Vancouver

Canadian Peace Congress  
Pivot2Peace (S. Geo. Bay  
Chapter, WBW)

The Canada Files

**GERMANY:**

Berlin World Beyond War  
Chapter, Coop Antiwar  
Cafe

Bundesausschuss

Friedensratschlag

Deutscher Friedensrat e.V.  
(German Peace Council)

Forum against Militarism  
and War, Heidelberg,

Germany

Friedensglockengesellscha  
ft e.V., Berlin

International Peace Bureau  
(IPB)

RüstungsInformationsBüro

**GLOBAL:**

CODEPINK

Food Not Bombs

Women's International  
League for Peace and  
Freedom

World BEYOND War

**KENYA:**

Loresho Ridge Art  
Commune, Nairobi, Kenya

**MEXICO:**

Nuevo País, México.

**PARAGUAY:**

Consejo de Organizaciones  
Sociales y Populares

**SPAIN:**

Women in Black, Madrid  
Women in Black, Spain

**SWITZERLAND:**

Group For a Switzerland  
Without an Army

**UNITED**

**KINGDOM:**

Campaign Against Arms  
Trade

Shadow World

Investigations

Stop the War Coalition  
(UK)

Tipping Point North  
South/Transform Defence  
Project

**UNITED STATES:**

350 Milwaukee

350 Wisconsin

About Face: Veterans

Against War

Action Corps

Alaska Peace Center

American Friends Service  
Committee

Anti-Imperialist Action  
Committee

Association of Concerned  
Africa Scholars (USA)

Association of Roman  
Catholic Women Priests

Backbone Campaign

Baltimore Nonviolence  
Center

Ban Killer Drones.org

Banish The F35s Party

Barrymore Theatre

Brandywine Peace

Community

Broome County NY Peace  
Action

Building Unity

Call To Action - Madison  
Area, Inc.

Casa Baltimore Limay

Citizens Against Nuclear  
Bombers

Citizens for Peace

CODEPINK Chicago -

DivestMike

CODEPINK Golden Gate  
Chapter

Community Organizing  
Center

Crawford Stewardship  
Project

Demilitarize Western  
Massachusetts

Divest Ed

Dorothy Day Catholic  
Worker, Washington DC

DSA International  
Committee

Earth care not warfare

Eisenhower Media

Network

El Centro de la Raza

Extinction Rebellion DC

Family Farm Defenders

FCNL Lansing Area

Advocacy Team

Feel The Bern San

Fernando Valley

Democratic Club

Fellowship of

Reconciliation, USA

Feminist Foreign Policy  
Project

Feminist Peace Initiative

Florida for a World

Beyond War

Foreign Policy Team,

Progressive Democrats of  
America

Four Lakes Green Party

Fox Valley Peace Coalition

- Appleton, WI, USA

Freedom Forward

Friends of FRanz & Ben  
bensalmon.org

Friends of Starkweather  
Creek

Global Network Against  
Weapons & Nuclear Power  
in Space

Granny Peace Brigade  
NYC

Grassroots Global Justice  
Alliance

Ground Zero Center for  
Nonviolent Action

Harambee Village Doulas  
Harmony With Our Planet

- NJ

Hawai'i Peace and Justice

Health Advocacy

International

Historians for Peace and Democracy  
Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism Project  
Interfaith Peace Working Group  
Iowa Peace Network  
Justice and Peace Team, Edgewood United Church, East Lansing, MI  
JVP-Portland  
Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice  
Kalamazoo nonviolent opponents of war  
Kateri Peace Conference  
Kickapoo Peace Circle  
L.I.Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives  
LaForge  
Lansing Area Peace Education Center  
Lauren Faith Smith  
Ministry for Nonviolence  
LEPOCO Peace Center  
Linda and Gene Farley  
Center for Peace, Justice & Sustainability  
Long Beach Area Peace Network  
Madison Area DSA  
Madison Environmental Justice Organization  
Madison Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Madison-Rafah Sister City Project  
MADRE  
Maine Veterans For Peace  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Maryland Peace Action  
Maryland United for Peace and Justice  
Massachusetts Peace Action  
Micah  
Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild  
Military Poisons  
Minnesota Peace Project  
Mothers Against Gun Violence  
Muslim Peace Fellowship  
National Lawyers Guild (NLG)  
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies  
Nevada Desert Experience  
No More Bombs  
Nuclear Ban.US  
Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons  
Oregonizers  
Our Revolution Baltimore City/County  
Our Wisconsin Revolution  
Partners for Palestine  
Pax Christi Lansing  
Pax Christi Madison  
Pax Christi Metro New York

Pax Christi New York State  
Pax Christi Upstate New York  
Pax Christi USA  
Peace Action  
Peace Action Bay Ridge  
Peace Action Maine  
Peace Action New York State  
Peace Action of Michigan  
Peace Action of San Mateo County  
Peace Action WI  
Peace and Justice Works  
Iraq Affinity Group (Portland, OR)  
Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW!  
PEACEWORKERS  
People for Peace & Security  
People's City Council  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin  
PJALS  
Pregnancy Options  
Wisconsin: Education, Resources, & Support, Inc  
Quaker Palestine Israel Network  
Rachel Corrie Chapter 109  
Veterans For Peace  
Racine (WI) Coalition for Peace & Justice  
Redwood City Catholic Worker  
ReThinking Foreign Policy  
Rooms for PEACE

RootsAction.org  
Safe Skies Clean Water  
Wisconsin  
School Sisters of Notre  
Dame - CP JPIC  
Seattle Anti-War Coalition  
Sisters of Mercy of the  
Americas - Justice Team  
Socialist Law Students of  
Wisconsin  
Solidarity Realty  
Spokane Veterans For  
Peace #035  
STEM Strikes for Peace  
Syracuse Peace council  
Syracuse Veterans for  
Peace chapter 51  
Tacoma Fellowship of  
Reconciliation  
The Center for  
International Policy (CIP)  
The Herd of Northern  
Vermonters  
Transformative Wealth  
Management, LLC  
U.S. Labor Against  
Racism and War  
UNA USA Chapter of  
Greater Detroit  
Unity of Madison  
upstate (ny/usa) drone  
action  
Uptown Progressive  
Action  
US Boats to Gaza  
Veterans For Peace  
Veterans For Peace  
Chapter 113 Hawai'i

Veterans For Peace  
Chapter 27  
Veterans for Peace chapter  
90  
Veterans for Peace Chapter  
90 Binghamton NY  
Veterans For Peace Golden  
Rule Project  
Veterans For Peace Jon  
Miles Chapter 13, Tucson  
Veterans For Peace Linus  
Pauling Chapter 132  
Veterans for Peace  
Madison, Clarence Kailin  
CH. 25 25  
Veterans For Peace Maine  
Chapter  
Veterans for Peace the  
Hector Black Chapter  
Veterans for Peace  
Vermont  
Veterans for Peace-Chapter  
136, The Villages, Florida  
Veterans For Peace,  
Milwaukee Chapter 102  
Veterans for Peace, North  
Texas  
Veterans For Peace, Santa  
Fe NM Chapter  
Washington Against  
Nuclear Weapons  
Washington Poor People's  
Campaign  
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.  
WEST SUBURBAN  
PEACE COALITION  
Western WA FOR Seattle  
Chapter

Whatcom Peace & Justice  
Center  
WI Coalition to Ground  
the Drones and End the  
Wars  
WILPF ST.Louis  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for  
Justice  
Wisconsin Network for  
Peace and Justice  
Wisconsin Resources  
Protection Council  
Women Against Military  
Madness  
Women Cross DMZ  
Women's International  
League for Peace &  
Freedom - Madison WI  
Branch  
Women's International  
League for Peace and  
Freedom - Burlington VT  
Branch  
Women's International  
League for Peace and  
Freedom- Triangle Branch  
World Beyond War Naples  
Chapter  
World Without War  
Yemen Relief and  
Reconstruction Foundation  
NH Peace Action  
Raytheon Anti-War  
Campaign - Massachusetts  
Yemeni Alliance  
Committee  
Yemeni Liberation  
Movement

