

PF 8/12/13

August 12, 2013

To the Burlington City Council and Mayor:

If there were democracy, justice, and respect for human dignity associated with the F-35 warplane, we wouldn't be here tonight.

We have been denied the ability to present facts and the important experience of those living, working, or going to school near the Burlington Airport to anyone with substantial power to influence the F-35 basing decision.

The Congressional delegation and the Governor have refused to meet with effected residents and have disregarded the environmental impacts. They have not stood for protecting public welfare or protecting our environment. In Senator Leahy's case, he has even dealt in insider trading to help secure the basing, as reported in the *Boston Globe*.

So, this chance to present the evidence, the facts, and the real experience of living under warplanes is very important. The situation is night and day compared to the last time the council took up the issue in terms of our understanding of the severity of the impacts and the exposed corruption of the boondoggle F-35 program.

We get that opposing the basing draws the fire of the political and economic establishment that stands to benefit from the basing. We have been targets of that for nearly 3 years.

But what we need to you to do is use your power as landlord to the ANG to stop the basing. We hope that you will act with the principle of the Winooski City Council when it voted NO. That council responded to the people most impacted by the basing and to the overwhelming evidence that this basing would be a horrendous and irreparable mistake for the region.

Paul Fleckenstein  
Burlington