

SENATE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Earlier this year it became clear that the F-35 stationed at Burlington Airport will be amenable to carrying nuclear weapons in the future. Yesterday we had testimony that this is a decision for the military ... a decision that will not necessarily be shared with Vermont's governor and elected officials.

The following scenario is my personal fear:

The F-35 is technically more complicated. As such, it is potentially more prone to human error. The F-35 also has a lethal stealth coating. **If a crash occurs, a plume of poison gas could migrate through Vermont's most densely populated area**, leaving a lasting effect on every living thing in its path.

It is not too late for Vermont to simply say no to the F35, for budget reasons alone. The planes are way too expensive. Our country's bloated military budget needs to be slowed down. More weaponry, especially nuclear, does not make the world a safer place.

Vermont could lead the country in this message. You each have a window of opportunity to take action.

In closing, I predict that **history will some day laud Vermont** for taking this honorable step toward world peace. We had a senator who took a bold stand for peace and is lauded today ... **George Aiken** who spoke out against the Vietnam War with his **“Let's declare victory and get out!”**

Please get in touch with the George Aiken within you and take a stand to protect Vermont, the northeast and Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Ely
(Burlington Resident)

