



---

March 21, 2022

Sent via Email

Governor Tony Evers  
[EversInfo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:EversInfo@wisconsin.gov)

Dear Governor Evers,

We are enclosing the final version of the Trinity Consulting modeling maps and attached written report showing the areas of three communities that are directly impacted by breathable airborne lead particles emitted by aircraft operating in and out of the City of Middleton's Morey Airport (Morey Field or Morey Airport) on a daily basis.

You will note the documentation of substantial airborne lead emissions in the entire area and along flight tracks of aircraft that fly in and out of Morey Airport. You will also note that the airborne lead particles are deposited on nine schools, several parks and are particularly heavy in the affordable housing areas the City of Middleton has located immediately east of the Airport's primary runway.

Lead in very small amounts can cause very serious and lifelong injuries to a child and inhaling the small lead particles from the exhaust of general aviation gas can be even more damaging than lead from lined water pipes (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/lead/health.html>).

Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) Director Greene's correspondence on behalf of the Department of Transportation (2/17/2022) is not an acceptable response to our correspondence of 2/8/2022 and appears misleading in several respects. The City of Middleton's Airport may be a local listed airport on a National Plan of Integrated Systems, but it is certainly not a vital part of the national air transportation system. Dane County Regional Airport, 9 nautical miles east of Middleton, is undoubtedly the county's vital part of the national air transportation system. The Middleton Airport operations are almost entirely recreational. The Airport provides no essential service to the community. It is of zero economic benefit to the Town of Middleton and provides practically no demonstrable economic benefit to the City of Middleton. The economic benefit an airport generally provides to a county in which it is located is more than provided by Dane County Regional Airport, not Middleton's Morey Field. It should be noted that any lead producing piston-aircraft flights in and out of Dane County Regional Airport deposit lead exhaust particles over the primarily vacant land of the airport's buffer zone, not parks, schools, and homes of Wisconsin citizens. Dane County Airport has sufficient capacity to accommodate the recreational operations of Morey Airport.

No matter how much the BOA believes it is obligated to support continued operations at Middleton's Airport, the Department of Transportation (DOT) cannot believe that obligation

---

7555 W. OLD SAUK ROAD | VERONA, WI 53593 | Phone: 833-5887 | Fax: 833-8996 |

[www.town.middleton.wi.us](http://www.town.middleton.wi.us) | [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us)

requires supporting expansions of those operations that increase the potential for lead poisoning the children of three communities.

If “eliminating lead exposures in our nation must be among our nation’s highest priorities” (Vice President Kamala Harris statement while visiting Milwaukee on Monday, 1/24/22), then the DOT and BOA cannot possibly support expanding facilities or operations at Middleton’s Airport as that will directly expand airborne lead pollution over schools, parks, and homes of communities encompassing approximately 7,000 children.

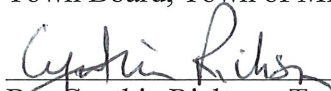
With considerable help from federal funding, Wisconsin’s state government is removing lead water pipes in residences and public buildings wherever they are located. That same government cannot responsibly utilize separate federal funds to support inserting a different and even more humanly dangerous form of lead in other residences and public schools near Middleton’s Morey Field.

We would once again call your attention to the scientific studies of Miranda and Zahran (Miranda Study at <https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3230438/>; Zahran Study at <https://news.sccgov.org/sites/g/files/exjcpb956/files/documents/RHV-Airborne-Lead-Study-Report.pdf>). Each of these studies documents the lead poisoning risk to children who live near or have regular contact with general aviation airports similar to Morey Field. Thousands of children in the Middleton area are within the lead exposure zones documented by the referenced studies and many will suffer some degree of lead toxicity. It is inevitable; and once a child tests positive for lead it is too late to prevent potential damage to that child’s health. Primary prevention is the only defense (<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/default.htm>). The recreational needs of a few people should not be allowed to put the health of so many at risk.

We request a response from your office as to what steps you are prepared to take to eliminate the airborne lead pollution in the many residential areas around Middleton’s recreational Morey Airport. As a directly affected municipality, we will assist in any way reasonably possible to protect our citizens, especially the children.

Sincerely,

Town Board, Town of Middleton



---

By: Cynthia Richson, Town Board, Chair

Approved by the Town Board of the Town of Middleton, and authorizing the Town Chair to sign on behalf of the Town Board on 3/21/22, approved by a vote of 4-0; Supervisor Schmidt absent (excused).

cc:

Maggie Gau, Governor Evers Chief of Staff; [maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov](mailto:maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov)

Brian Weaver, WI DHS, Governor Evers Lead Policy Advisor;

[brian.weaver@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:brian.weaver@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Craig M. Thompson, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Secretary;

[DOTExec@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTExec@dot.wi.gov) and [craigm.thompson@dot.wi.gov](mailto:craigm.thompson@dot.wi.gov)

David Greene, Director, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics; [david.greene@dot.wi.gov](mailto:david.greene@dot.wi.gov)

U.S. Representative Mark Pocan; [mark.pocan@mail.house.gov](mailto:mark.pocan@mail.house.gov)

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin; [baldwin.tammy@mail.house.gov](mailto:baldwin.tammy@mail.house.gov)

State Senator Jon Erpenbach; [Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
State Representative Dianne Hesselbein, Assistant Minority Leader;  
[Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Jim Pulvermacher, Town Board Chair, town of Springfield;  
[chairperson@town.springfield.wi.us](mailto:chairperson@town.springfield.wi.us)