

US-Citizens Aviation Watch Association

a not-for-profit corporation

"Protecting the public's health, environment, property and promoting safety."

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Via confirmed email and regular mail

Merrill Travis
Chief, Bureau of Railroads
IDOT2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

**In reply to: Chicago fast rail corridor
Comments from:**

**US-Citizens Aviation Watch Association
Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare
Mothers Against Airport Pollution**

Since there is no worse threat to our health and environment that we face today than that caused by airport-aircraft operations. The damage aviation causes to our upper atmosphere could actually be even more alarming; and since,

(1) with the AIR-21 ACT, flight operations will double in just 10 years; and since,

(2) the federal government grossly underestimates the number of people in the United States that are affected by aircraft noise (500,000 Americans), and that the number of documented residents in the Chicagoland area affected by just one airport, O'Hare, exceeds 600,000 residents alone, even using the federal government's inept definition of noise; and since,

(3) airports and aircraft operations use the most greatest amount of fuel per passenger mile, thus emitting massive amounts of Clean Air criteria and hazardous and toxic air emissions (some of it exotic and under exotic conditions); and since,

Advocating a sustainable, equitable and accountable aviation industry.

(4) airports, aircraft, and airport operations emit extraordinary amounts of air, noise, ground, and water pollution (such as but not limited to ground level ozone, hazardous and toxic emissions, aircraft noise, de-icing fluid point source and runoff, fuel dumping, and solid waste disposal problems); and since,

(5) the emissions from airports, aircraft, and airport operations pose a significant health threat and have been linked to conditions including but not limited to cancer, asthma, brain tumors, emphysema, heart disease, Hodgkin's disease, kidney damage, lacrimation, liver damage, lung disease, lung structure damage, lung tightness, lymphoma, mental depression, multiple organ involvement, mutations, myeloid leukemia, tumors, conjunctiva irritation, coughing, delayed hypersensitivity, distorted perceptions, drowsiness, dyspnea, headache, EEG changes, muscle weakness, nasal effects, pulse rate decrease, pulmonary irritation, skin and eye irritation, systemic irritation, wheezing, respiratory system damage; and since,

(6) the emissions from airports, aircraft, and airport operations expose an extremely large number of people living and working at distances greater than 30 miles from the facility;

(7) and since 70% of our nation's population lives within 20 miles of a major airport;

(8) the significant and deadly health threat resulting from emissions of airports, aircraft, and airport operations needs to be reduced and concomitant, comprehensive regulation in order to protect the public's health, and moreover

(9) the number of people affected by fast, high-speed and very-high speed rail will be considerably less.

The below-mentioned organizations, protecting more than one-quarter of our state's population and representing well-over one million American members, strongly support the use of increased rail operations.

Thank you.



Jack Saporito

Pres., US-Citizens Aviation Watch Association / www.us-caw.org

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