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Desks: Legal, Healthcare, Environmental, Political, Transportation

For Immediate Release

10/17/03

FAA'S SECRET MEETING ISN'T FLYING

Arlington Heights, IL—Today, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is holding a closed-door meeting, inviting only a handful of the scores of communities that are affected by O'Hare Airport and its expansion. What are they trying to hide?

The FAA knows that the Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare (AReCO) is the leading organization protecting the public's health, safety and welfare related to key transportation projects. It represents residents in 41 communities, including airport workers and many top experts, bringing strong, factual evidence to the table. Why wasn't AReCO invited?

Doesn't the FAA want the communities and the residents to know the truth?

- ➔ The numbers show O'Hare is not a major "economic engine" in driving future growth!
- ➔ Extrapolation of a prestigious study's findings clearly show that O'Hare and its related aircraft operations, is among the worst, if not the worst, single man-made air polluter in at least the whole United States!
- ➔ According to American Cancer Society maps: a Blue-Ribbon panel found that Arlington Heights, Palatine, Park Ridge, Des Plaines and Mount Prospect have some of the highest incidents of lung cancer.
- ➔ According to American Cancer Society maps: Park Ridge, Arlington Heights, Niles, and Des Plaines have the highest number of prostate cancers. Park Ridge significantly leads the nation. (One related link to prostate cancer is heavy manufacturing sources such as O'Hare.)
- ➔ According to American Cancer Society maps: Chicagoland Communities also lead in other types of cancers including breast cancer.
- ➔ That studies show O'Hare is a major chemical pollution source related to some of the highest cancers and other airport-poisoning disease rates in America.
- ➔ That communities downwind of O'Hare abound in cancer incidences, especially several North Shore communities.
- ➔ That respiratory and other airport-poisoning-source diseases are also epidemic, affecting a large percentage of the Chicagoland population.
- ➔ That there are better solutions...

Maybe the FAA, state of Illinois and Chicago-O'Hare don't want community leaders and especially the public to know that AReCO has been involved in scores of airport environmental processes nationwide. **In Louisville, working with the activists and community, it was able to get a whole town moved 10 miles away to protect them.** Certainly here in Chicago, at one of the world's dirtiest airports, the FAA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and officials would minimally have to do the same.

Addressing the FAA's position on the environmental process, THE AIRPORT EXPANSION IS NOT A DONE DEAL. It is our job to make sure that they do their job in protecting us from the devastating public health and environmental impacts from this airport and also, this expansion.

Maybe the FAA, with its partner, the air transport industry is hiding other things too! As a result, AReCO will be notifying the head of the U. S. Department of Transportation and FAA about the region's closed-door meeting and will seek legal council to see what laws, if any, are being broke n by barring the public from its secret meeting.

The FAA's pre-disposition in favor of expansion is clearly seen in its spokesman's (Tony Molinaro) statement that "This environmental analysis specifically focuses on the needs of O'Hare, but it opens up our analysis to include all the alternatives out there." Getit? The needs of O'Hare, not the environmental needs of the surrounding communities!

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