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Airports: Government says, "What Noise???"

Arlington Heights, IL—The Real Reason the airports want the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to continue to tell folks "*There is No Noise Below Our Measure of 65dB DNL!*" You guessed it...it's all about money!

The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare (AReCO) has just released a new report that realistically estimates, using the FAA's own program, the number of homes around Chicago's O'Hare airport that would become qualified for noise-proofing, as a function of various average environmental and public health noise levels.

The report clearly demonstrates why the entire air transportation industry is so afraid of supporting credible institutions' standards worldwide, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization (W.H.O.).

The number of homes that would qualify for noise-proofing increases rapidly as the protection criteria is increased (noise level reduced). For example, with O'Hare's number of flights today, just a 5dB drop from the industry's 65 decibels criteria level, below which they claim, "there isn't any significant noise" increases the home count from about 8325 to about 31,270! To meet even minimum W.H.O. protection recommendations of 55dB DNL, the home count jumps to 116,500!

If Chicago were to actually noise-proof each of these homes at an average cost of \$30,000 each, the cost would be around \$690 million at 60dB and for W.H.O protection standards, the cost jump would be near \$3.25 billion! At the current paltry O'Hare "noise-proofing" Mayor Daley budgetary rate of about \$18 million per year, it would take 180 years to complete the program!

Which is why O'Hare and the federal government continue to tell noise-pummeled hundreds-of-thousands of O'Hare and millions of property owners nationwide that "You must be hearing things...there isn't any significant jet aircraft noise beyond what we claim you hear."

Jack Saporito, AReCO's executive director wants to make it perfectly clear, "Once and for all can we put to rest, the Chicago controlled O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission/O'Hare cabal myth that "*The noise levels are going down because the people are calling in fewer and fewer noise complaints.*" Even a caveman could understand that when people call in complaints, and nothing changes (and often not even a response from the call center), they eventually stop calling! It is technically called "learned helplessness"."

"Let's finally recognize that the O'Hare "economic engine" is a very noisy (and pollution producing) engine that already fails to measure up to even worldwide minimum public health and quality of life standards," states Jack Saporito.

AReCO states, "To protect the public, especially thousands of Chicagoans, Mayor Daley and the city of Chicago, ONCC and the FAA should (1) immediately adopt residential noise-proofing down to a 55dB DNL level, including any newly impacted "expansion" areas, (2) complete the program by year 2018 and (3) procure program financing through indebtedness (e.g. bonds) in the same fashion they are providing for proposed O'Hare expansion.

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* The new report is available on-line at: <http://www.areco.org/Noise%20Home%20Insulation.pdf>

* -Or by calling 630-415-3370 for more information

* NASA: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/glenn/about/fs03grc.html>