

Source: ALLIANCE OF RESIDENTS CONCERNING O'HARE
For Immediate Release
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December 5, 2001

Property Owners Big Losers In Airport Deal

CHICAGO—Under the Governor's new O'Hare proposal, he claims taxpayers would not be footing the bill. Unfortunately, all Cook and DuPage County real estate taxpayers and particularly those in Bensenville, Des Plaines, and Elk Grove would be called on to pony up.

The plans call for eliminating at least 800 homes and businesses. Most likely, in addition, thousands more would be found necessary to eliminate. All these would be removed from the tax rolls and replaced by more airport, a public entity that does not pay real estate taxes. These homes and businesses slated for demolition now contribute large amounts of tax money to the communities every single year.

Additionally, some schools and other community facilities and services such as libraries will see their income drop dramatically. In Cook County, businesses pay almost double the rate of residential properties. They also are a huge financial benefit to the local school districts. It is likely that many of the businesses slated to be destroyed would relocate to counties with lower real estate taxes. Also, generally commercial properties around O'Hare have not appreciated in value as others outside of Cook County have.

Because of these decreased revenues, this airport deal may actually impoverish some school districts and other public services. Communities other than Chicago would find few additional revenue sources from the airport since most of the new jobs associated with the airport expansion would be only temporary construction jobs. "Maybe Governor Ryan can turn Bensenville, Des Plaines, and Elk Grove into long-term parking lots for Daley's airport?" stated Jack Saporito, spokesperson for the Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare, a local airport watchdog group.

More "good news": Ryan's O'Hare deal would further cement Chicago and the region as a world leader in pollution production and subsequent health problems. No airport in the world would produce such a large amount of pollution around such a concentrated population center of millions of people.

Currently, O'Hare is the number one hazardous and toxic polluter in the entire state of Illinois, even excluding airport and aircraft operations pollution from outside the actual airport property, such as from aircraft flight paths. That pollution, as personal testimony in Park Ridge verified, produces very serious and rare diseases to a large percentage of the population in the communities, including Chicago. Additionally, aviation uses about 10% of all the oil produced, including that used for manufacturing plastics, gasoline for cars, diesel fuel and heating oils. More than 90% of those aircraft toxic air emissions contaminate the large population within 40 miles of O'Hare, with increasing concentrations downwind and closer to the airport. ###