

THE ALLIANCE OF RESIDENTS CONCERNING O'HARE, Inc.

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

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"To achieve a balance between public health and the economy"

July 9, 2004

Sent via email and regular mail
Mr. Michael W. MacMullen
Airports Environmental Program Manager
Federal Aviation Administration
Chicago Airports District Office
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018
michael.w.macmullen@faa.gov

Dear Mr. MacMullen:

It has been reported by Crain's Chicago Business (7/4/04) and Chicago television news stations that U.S. Senator Richard Durbin has sent a request (dated 6/24/04) to weaken our environmental protection process by shortening the time allowed for environmental review of the proposed O'Hare Modernization ("expansion") project, rather than wanting to protect the general and flying public and the American taxpayer by having a full public vetting of the issues.

The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare (ARECO) is petitioning the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stay the course and maintain proper environmental procedures.

Our environmental laws and regulations are meant to protect the health of 5-8 million people that are significantly affected by O'Hare airport related toxic and health damaging emissions, as well as the safety, welfare and tax dollars of the American public.

O'Hare related operations burn upwards of a billion gallons of fuel near O'Hare annually, emitting thousands of tons of toxic air pollutants each day, harming the health of millions of people! O'Hare emits a heavy concentration of unusual pollution on the local populace and the Chicago area has unusual wind patterns, together causing major concern. One O'Hare study showed that its operations cost the community about \$7 billion annually, just from the cancer it's emissions cause and billions more in other unfunded airport-poisoning costs (asthma, cardiovascular, etc.).

In contrast to Senator Durbin's action, and on behalf of the millions of people whose health, safety and welfare are compromised by O'Hare operations, ARECO is petitioning the FAA and EPA to do the right thing and not bend to political pressure.

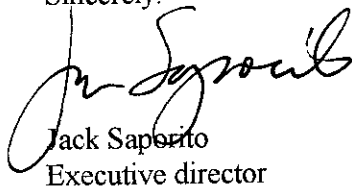
Proud Recipient: 1995 Environmental Merit Award, Arlington Heights - 1996, '99 Illinois State Senate Recognition
Protecting the Health and Safety of Millions of O'Hare Affected Citizens

Additionally, AReCO is petitioning for a longer public review process, giving the general public time to digest just how this project would harm them and the better long-term transportation choices that are available. Normally, only a 30-day public comment period is given after the FAA releases the draft environmental document. However, because of the length of the document (thousands of pages), the importance and complexity of the proposal, AReCO is hereby officially requesting at least an additional 60 days, (90 days total). This is to let the public and the media have enough time to analyze the volumes of technical and legal data and enlist the needed professional and legal help.

Let the environmental process protect us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jack Saporito
Executive director

c: U.S. Senator Peter Fitzgerald
U.S. Congressman Henry Hyde
Secretary Norman Y. Mineta
Administrator Marion C. Blakey
Ken Westlake