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News Release

For Immediate Release

Source: Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare

People petition U.S. EPA for protection from airport harms

PEOPLE PETITION US-EPA FOR PROTECTION FROM AIRPORT HARMES

Chicago, IL—**The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare (AReCO) has called upon the USEPA for action, as it is concerned that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) do not seem to be acting in a manner to properly address significant public health concerns raised in recent studies, nor in a timely manner.**¹

In consort with the protection petition to the EPA, AReCO released a new report on 9/17/02 titled "ODOR PERCEPTION THRESHOLDS VERSUS DANGER LEVELS OF AIRBORNE GASES AND PARTICULATE MATTER". The study found that our noses are poor detectors of most toxic pollution substances and should not be counted on to keep us safe from potential serious chronic health problems (e.g. cancer) if high but non-detectable chemical concentrations persist and corrective steps are not taken to protect oneself from airport/aircraft and other sources of such chemical concentrations.

AReCO noted that communities hardest hit by airport pollution related health problems are not necessarily located right next to the airport but can be some distance away in generally "downwind" areas. *In the case of O'Hare Airport, these communities include Evanston, Glenview, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Northbrook, Skokie and Wilmette.*

Therefore, AReCO has called upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to correct a serious monitoring deficiency in these neighborhoods and,

¹ Recent actions, or inactions as the case may be, appear to be more in directions assured to squelch concerns and to support "big business" polluter interests. See for instance the letter from the IEPA Director to Senator Durbin, Aug. 20, 2002 re. The National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act. *{Ed. Basically pre-commits IEPA and USEPA to approval of O'Hare massive expansion.}*; also "Chicago O'Hare Airport Air Toxic Monitoring Program", (2001) where: "The data collected through this study's air monitoring program indicated that the toxics air quality in the vicinity of O'Hare Airport is comparable to the air quality in other parts of Chicago and comparable to the air quality in other major urban areas. *{Ed. All generally poor.}*"; and "Cancer Incidence in Populations Living Near Chicago O'Hare and Midway Airports, Illinois", Nov. 2001. *{Ed. Study is fatally flawed through use of super-averages to make variances disappear.}*

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additionally, to cause to be initiated epidemiological studies in these areas, directed at determining specific linkages of the known² excess cancer rates (and any other diseases) experienced in those areas to causes associated with air pollution from airport and aircraft operations and/or other sources and for adequate corrective action to immediately be taken.

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(Editor's Notes:

- It is estimated that over 1-million people oppose O'Hare Airport expansion (based on poles and voting records).
- AReCO represents members living in 41 communities including Chicago.
- The EPA letter and the full study and others can be found at: www.areco.org)

² Ref. "INVESTIGATION OF THE CANCER INCIDENCE RATES IN THE VICINITY OF O'HARE AIRPORT", www.areco.org