

Source: ALLIANCE OF RESIDENTS CONCERNING O'HARE  
For Immediate Release  
Contact: Jack Saporito, (847) 506-0670  
November 27, 2001

## ***Ryan and Daley trade health, safety and welfare for convenience and profits***

Daley and Ryan's proposed "deal" to keep Chicago's Meigs Field airport open in exchange for expanding O'Hare is deceiving. These two issues are separate and should not be on the table together.

Meigs is the airport of convenience for state and city employees traveling to and from Springfield, and for wealthy business people. It is also promoted by the O'Hare expansionist Chicago Chamber of Commerce. What Ryan and Daley are actually trading is very short-term convenience for a very few privileged people against the health, safety and welfare of hundreds of thousands to millions of Chicago and suburban residents.

This is very disturbing because both the governor and mayor are well aware of the grave, significant impacts that airports have on human health and our environment. Airports around the world are not expanding because of these impacts, for example, in Germany. To further expand O'Hare, already a "mega-airport" located in an urban population center, is extremely poor public policy.

As Ryan and Daley know, airports and aircraft emissions are close to unregulated: tens to hundreds of thousands of pounds of known human carcinogens and hundreds of tons of other toxic chemicals come raining down on top of us from O'Hare Airport and aircraft operations, for many miles around the airport. The grave impact on public health is epidemic; doesn't Daley know that Chicago is ranked as the most polluted city in the nation?

As with many politicians whose promises can't be trusted, Governor Ryan failed to keep his promise that he would not allow any modification of O'Hare that would add more flights causing any more harm to the vast numbers of affected residents. But with the increased air and ground traffic which would be allowed by the additional or modified runways at O'Hare, hundreds of thousands of people, perhaps millions, would suffer additional hazards to their personal health and safety. Most of these O'Hare problems have been hidden from the public by the shortsighted expansionists. The public must be

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informed about these serious problems caused by O'Hare and the aircraft, so that they can make informed decisions.

George Ryan and Richard Daley would trade off people's health and lives with their intent to expand O'Hare, which would cause much more toxic pollution and other quality of life problems and decrease our safety both in the air and on the ground, in order to keep Meigs open for the convenience of a small, privileged, rich few.

Ryan and Daley must know by now that airports and densely-populated, residential areas are not compatible. We call upon Governor Ryan and Mayor Daley to do the right thing and protect us, not to promote the short-term convenience of the privileged few at Meigs or the short-term profits for a very few people from O'Hare expansion, at the cost of everyone's health and environment.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare (ARECO) is a not-for-profit organization of individuals and families, living in 41 communities including the city of Chicago that are affected by O'Hare Airport operations. [www.areco.org](http://www.areco.org)

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