

News Release

Source: Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare

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For Immediate Release

BOYCOTT O'HARE EXPANSIONIST BUSINESSES

Arlington Heights, May 14, 2001—The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare (AReCO) will be asking its members, all of its supporters and allies to avoid doing business with the 61 companies whose officials signed a letter to the governor and other Illinois officials calling for expansion that will bring more flights into O'Hare Airport.

“It is an unconscionable and self-serving act by those who are either uneducated about the issue or those who are greedy and only care about the bottom line and not the health and welfare of the communities that they do business with. Why are those that benefit financially the ones with the strongest voice?” stated Jack Saporito, AReCO's Executive Director. “It is well known that one of the busiest airports in the world, almost a million flights a year, creates serious and deadly health effects that can affect a large percentage of the population in Northeastern Illinois. Don't they care?” asked Saporito.

“We need to put our children first,” says Katy Moran, Chicago spokesperson for Mothers Against Airport Pollution (MAAP). Ms. Moran also stated, “The huge amounts of hazardous and toxic air, water and ground pollution that comes from O'Hare and its aircraft (plumes of air toxins emitted over us) is seriously harming our children's health and no one is protecting us. It is basically an unregulated industry and it appears that the few environmental regulations that are supposed to protect us from catastrophes like this do not work. Especially now, on Mother's Day, mothers need to stand up for their children. Stop doing business with these companies that want to harm our children's health.”

Studies from around the world from many different sources, including states, countries, school districts, and communities, all show that airport and aircraft-generated pollution are potentially lethal to people who live and work even many miles from airports.

A Los Angeles School District study found that even small flight volumes of approximately fifteen jets per day are associated with a significant increase in cancer risk among residents living under the flight paths. At O'Hare, we have about 2,500 flights a

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day, or almost a million per year! The health of several million people could be affected by this one mega-airport alone.

‘It is a reckless act, by the officials of the companies that signed this letter proposing more flights at O’Hare. Thus, the businesses themselves must be held responsible and accountable unless they decide to support the communities they are supposed to serve. These businesses pretend to serve the community, while on the other hand, severely harm the very health, safety and welfare of their customers by this act, AReCO’s Saporito stated.

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(ed. Note: The Alliance of Residents Concerning O’Hare (AReCO) is a not-for-profit organization of individuals and families, living in 28 communities including the city of Chicago that are affected by O’Hare Airport operations. It is based in Arlington Heights, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. AReCO is committed to find a balance between public health and the economy and protecting the environment and safety of all our citizens. AReCO is a founding member of the national organization, US-Citizens Aviation Watch Association. For more information see: www.areco.org)

The O’Hare expansion letter referred to in this news release was published in Chicagoland newspapers May 14, 2001.