

Candidates ignore significant health and environmental issues

Arlington Heights, Oct. 27, 2000—Based on the number of “no responses” to an important survey, the Alliance of Residents Concerning O’Hare has received on the O’Hare Airport issues, it appears that many of the candidates do not concern themselves about substantial public health, safety, environmental, noise and other quality of life problems that the airport causes for more than one-quarter of Illinois population.

Studies and evidence strongly suggest that aviation pollution is the worst environmental and probably public health problem we face; yet, many state legislative and congressional candidates are staying away from the explosive political issue. O’Hare, because of its number of flights, the type of operations and other factors, is probably the worst of the worst.

“O’Hare airport poisons cause a significant public health problem that almost certainly affects the health of millions in the Chicagoland area. So why do so many candidates want to ignore that?” Asks Jack Saporito, executive director of the Alliance of Residents Concerning O’Hare, a citizen’s organization representing residents in 28 communities, including the city of Chicago. Saporito went on to say, “This is a human right’s issue, even if the citizens are ignorant of O’Hare problems, the candidates should be protecting them from the unknown!”

It also appears that some candidates are trying to “pass the buck”, saying that the problem is a local issue or state issue, while others say it is a federal matter.

You can find out more about the candidates position on airport issues by checking their answers to airport questionnaires at: (www.areco.org)

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(Editor note: Studies and other information showing the significant impact that aviation has on public health and our environment can be found at: www.us-caw.org See: “Studies” and also the “Pollution/Noise” menus in the left hand column.

Other documents and studies can be found at: www.areco.org)