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System Causes O'Hare Neighbors More Problems

Arlington Heights, IL—United Airlines has made a dubious claim that the proposed Flight Management System scheme will lower noise at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. We were not surprised at United's failure to mention that the system's main purpose is to aid the increase in the number of flights.

The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare opposes the use of such equipment because it effectively increases the number of flights and continuously runs the flights over the same residents and communities. It increases/concentrates noise and pollution over the same people and the same communities, and will further impact their health, quality of life, property values, etc. In many cases, the preferred runway use directs the flights over the communities that are most vocal about O'Hare noise and expansion.

We find it ironic that the head of Chicago's Noise Compatibility program and the mayor of Arlington Heights, Arlene Mulder, is trumpeting the Flight Management System and similar programs. She and Arlington Heights have been among the loudest proponents of shared runway use. As they correctly point out, their community lies under the approach and departure tracks of O'Hare's longest runway and its neighboring parallel runway causing the greatest number of flights to operate over their community. And, correctly stated, Arlington's O'Hare Advisory Committee is especially critical of Chicago since relatively few flights are directed over the city proper, even though it is the city's airport.

The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare supports community-sharing programs similar to those at world-class airports around the world. If everyone wants to share the wealth they must also share the burdens.

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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 the environment and the economy and protecting the health and safety of all our citizens.

For more information see: www.areco.org)