



The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare, Inc.

A Grass-Roots Non-Profit Corporation

PO Box 1702 ☉ Arlington Heights, IL 60006-1702 ☉ Fax: 847/506-0202 ☉ Tel: 847/506-0670

"To achieve a balance between public health and the economy"

August 31, 2000

Via facsimile and regular mail

Thomas Skinner, Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

Dear Director Skinner:

We urgently request that you immediately call for a mandatory emergency moratorium of flight operations at Chicago O'Hare International Airport because of the Ozone Action Alert Days that are in effect.

Operations should be cut back by at least 30% to afford a measurable amount of protection to roughly greater than one-half of the state's population.

Even though ozone precursors are of a different category of air pollutants causing different types of health and other related problems, our concern has been heightened after the recent release of the O'Hare Toxic Pollution and Cancer Risk Study commissioned by the City of Park Ridge. It shows that O'Hare is the worst producer of carcinogens and other toxic pollution in the state of Illinois affecting 98 communities, in generally a 32-mile radius of the airport, subjecting millions of Illinois citizens to unacceptable health risks. Park Ridge Mayor Ron Wietecha stated, "This report concludes that O'Hare airport is the number one toxic polluter in the state of Illinois."¹

We are now very concerned because O'Hare is most probably, also the worst producer of ozone precursors. This is based on the fact that Kennedy and LaGuardia airports separately, are the largest producers of nitrogen oxide in New York City. "They're (airports) some of the heaviest polluters in the United States," states Dr. Max Shauck, Baylor's aviation science department director. "Kennedy (airport) in New York is the largest source of nitrogen oxide in New York, LaGuardia's next. They are also the second and third largest sources of hydrocarbons." Incredibly, O'Hare Airport has more landings and take-offs than both airports combined, basically three times the amount of flight operations than either single New York airport.

¹ For executive summary see: www.areco.org