

Statement of fact from the Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare and US-Citizens Aviation Watch Association to the Illinois House Aviation Committee, regarding the Impact of the Airport Development Plans on the Environment and on Surrounding Neighborhoods, April 17, 2001.

Our children's health needs protection from airport and aircraft operations:

- Aviation operations produce vast quantities and unusual types of serious and deadly air, water, noise and ground pollution, which is mostly unregulated.
- Aviation emissions cause the worst environmental problems, which create the worst public-health problems we face today.
- The emissions from airports and aircraft operations pose a significant health threat and have been linked to conditions including cancer, asthma, brain tumors, emphysema, heart disease, leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, kidney damage and scores of other diseases.
- Over ¼ of our state's population could be affected by O'Hare operations alone. Numerous studies show emissions from airports and aircraft operations expose an extremely large number of people living and working at distances greater than 30 miles from a facility.
- Over 10 million American schoolchildren's health, motivation, and education are being damaged by airport and aircraft noise energy waves.
- Pollutants, conditions and synergistic/trigger effects of aircraft operations are/can be much different than any other source: Cancers and other serious health problems with cars and trucks fall generally within a 750-foot radius of the roadway, where the "majority" of the emission particulate falls. On the other hand, airport ground, aircraft and stationary source pollution and its health affects while concentrated more heavily in proximity to the airport are also dispersed many miles away because of the massive aircraft turbine vortex. Also, the aircraft's exhaust emits pollution on takeoffs that is also dispersed throughout a very-wide area, many miles from the airport. (Studies show the emission trail on takeoff is generally, 12 miles long by 12 miles wide). Note: Emission swaths on approaches are similar but types of pollutants emitted can be different than takeoff.
- Many of the airport and aircraft operation emissions are not yet reported, grossly underreported, or not yet quantified, so we do not know the total impact; however, it is overwhelming now.
- The Aviation Demand forecasts grossly underestimate the projections in the NAS plan. The FAA and NASA predict that flights will at least double nationally, by 2010.
- Despite the FAA's proposal for more runways and technology, nothing in the pipeline will stop or reduce delays even to at least 2015. Also, most all of the delays the flying public are experiencing will not be relieved by adding new runways.

Regarding any more operations at O'Hare Airport, we strongly request that in order for you to protect the health and welfare of millions of Illinois residents that you demand of

Chicago-O'Hare officials to reduce the number of flights to safer and healthier levels and that they clean up the existing environmental and public health problems they have created. Do not allow any more expansion of the airport, send the flights to airports away from the urban population to airports that are built to be environmentally safer and healthier and promote other forms of mass-transit such as world-class high-speed rail system. Thank you.