

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2014

Ms. Rosemarie Andolino
Commissioner
Department of Aviation
City of Chicago

Dear Commissioner Andolino,

We write to inform the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) of our decision to urge the Federal Aviation Administration to undertake a new environment impact study (EIS) of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) accompanied by a new round of public hearings that will afford vigorous citizen input. We call on the CDA to partner with the FAA to conduct new public hearings in the areas most affected by OMP, which are critical to the accuracy of a new EIS. We continue to believe that the City of Chicago, in conjunction with other stakeholders, has a key role to play in bringing much needed relief to our constituents from the adverse impacts of the OMP.

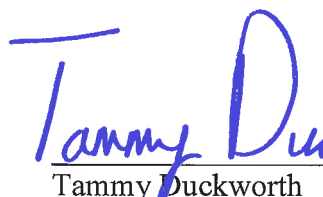
Since October 2013, our offices have received countless complaints on the impact the new runway and attending flight pattern changes at O'Hare have had on everyday life. The O'Hare Modernization Program has disturbed many of our constituents' daily lives, negatively impacting their schedules, leisure activities, and even home values in areas overwhelmed with noise pollution. While the FAA may not have violated any rules in conducting the environmental impact study or implementing the OMP, the FAA's failure to focus on areas most impacted by the OMP in their public hearings—and the incompleteness and questionable accuracy of the information provided in those hearings given significant changes in OMP's implementation since then—is disappointing and calls into question the integrity of the environmental impact study process. As a result, we believe a new environmental impact study is appropriate. Our constituents deserve the assurance that the environmental assumptions—now a decade old—are still valid.

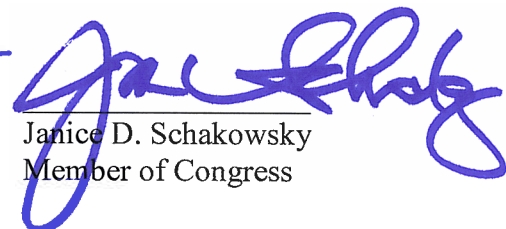
We believe the City—in conjunction with FAA and the airlines—needs to devise a broad course of action that will bring relief to our residents. Whether such a plan involves changes to the airspace, keeping all runways open indefinitely, expanding the Fly Quiet program, asking airlines to make some operational accommodations, or likely a combination of all of these, we need to start work now. Our constituents should not have to wait until the airport expansion is completed in 2020 to decide if they can endure the increase in noise pollution.

This is an enormous challenge, but our offices stand ready to work with you on this important and complex issue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress


Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress