



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

July 3, 2014

Mr. Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Subject: FAA 65 DNL Noise Metric Study

Dear Administrator Huerta:

O'Hare International Airport is critical to the National Aviation System and drives the economic engine of the Chicago area, generating 450,000 jobs and \$38 billion in economic activity for the region. Modernization of the airport, a process that began eleven years ago with your support, is necessary to improve airport infrastructure, promote growth and competitiveness, and enhance safety while also creating thousands of construction and permanent jobs, and increasing revenues. When complete, the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) will add 195,000 new jobs and contribute an additional \$18 billion to our region's economy.

As the O'Hare Modernization Program progresses, some of our residents in Chicago and the surrounding communities are struggling with aircraft noise. Together with Aldermen Margaret Laurino, Mary O'Connor, Pat O'Connor, and Michael Zalewski, we are working with our federal partners to understand the extent and magnitude of the problem. One of the important avenues of relief for residents is through noise mitigation and we are proud of our work in homes and schools near O'Hare and Midway airports. The Department of Aviation works hard to be a good neighbor and balance the quality of life issues of residents with O'Hare's economic vitality in the Chicago region.

As a result, the City is keenly interested in the outcome of the FAA study regarding the national Day-Night Average Sound Level 65 decibel metric, which is currently scheduled for completion in December 2015. While it is clear that the noise metric study is a complicated process, I urge the FAA to expedite it with the utmost care and haste. The City of Chicago stands ready to assist the FAA in any way we can in order to facilitate good science, excellent interagency coordination, and sound policy making.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor