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JOHN G. MULROE
STATE SENATOR · 10TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMISSION

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Federal Aviation Administration
Chicago Airports District Office, CHI-ADO-600
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

To whom it may concern:

I recently was made aware that the City of Chicago Department of Aviation recently wrote a letter to the Chicago Area Modernization Program Office at the FAA requesting that the instrument landing systems from one of the diagonal landing strips at O'Hare International Airport be shut down as part of decommissioning that runway. While I recognize that has long been one of the goals of the Modernization Program, I would respectfully request your assistance to stop the decommissioning process at this time.

Families throughout the surrounding suburbs moved to their homes in those communities during the time when the airport relied on the diagonal runways. Since the most recent horizontal runway opened, however, some families are living the lives of shut-ins, barely able to open their homes or spend the warm summer months outside in their yards. Property values are declining, effectively trapping them where they are.

Their voices need to be heard. For this reason, I sponsored legislation in the Senate that aims to continue operating the diagonal runways at full efficiency or at the very least keep them open as an option to address this problem. That legislation passed through the Senate by an overwhelming majority and is currently moving through the process in the House. I urge you and request your assistance to cease all action seeking to decommission any parts of the existing structures until the legislation has traveled its full course.

I remain hopeful that you will consider the families and communities that have been adversely affected by the reconfiguration of the runways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John G. Mulroe".

John G. Mulroe

Illinois State Senator, 10th District