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December 1, 2009

Ms. Catherine M. Lang
Acting Associate Administrator for Airports
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue
Washington D.C. 20591

Dear Ms. Lang:

I urge you to honor your long-standing commitment to reinstate two schools in my district for sound insulation funding--Carpenter Elementary School in Park Ridge and Ridgewood High School in Norridge.

It is my understanding that the decision to remove these schools from the eligibility list was based on the O'Hare Modernization Program 2014 noise contour. The quality of the educational environment is severely compromised when school sound insulation is based solely on future computer models, rather than the current reality of airplanes continuously flying over classrooms.

In 2004, at the direction of the Chicago Department of Aviation and the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission, the Federal Aviation Administration agreed to adopt a new policy of 60DNL as its standard for school sound insulation funding.

Carpenter School has waited patiently while eight nearby schools have received sound insulation. Ridgewood High School has been under consideration for sound insulation funding for almost eight years. It was approved in December 2004 and then taken off the list again. Eight schools surrounding Ridgewood have been sound insulated.

This situation is urgent and I don't believe we should wait for the results of the four-year FAA study reevaluating aircraft noise metrics. Please contact me regarding your plans for these two schools.

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

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