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84.5, 85.5, 86, 87, 88,
89, 214, 234, 299, 401

October 29, 2013

Mr. Michael P. Huerta, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Huerta:

With the commissioning of a 10,800-foot runway at O'Hare International Airport on October 17, 2013, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission has experienced two new runway openings within the last five years.

ONCC strongly believes the O'Hare Modernization Program is good for the efficiency of our nation's air travel, safety and economic growth but we still seek relief for those living under the airport's flight paths.

When the first new runway opened at O'Hare in November 2008, ONCC petitioned the FAA to initiate new and innovative discussions pertaining to aircraft noise measurement standards for airport communities.

ONCC appreciates the FAA's Research, Engineering and Development Committee efforts to initiate comprehensive research workshops to implement more effective research roadmaps for aircraft noise.

I participated in three such workshops held in 2009 and 2010 to identify key issues needed to better understand annoyance and sleep disturbance effects of aircraft noise.

In January 2011, a workshop summary with research roadmap recommendations was published, but as far as I know there has been no further action or research scheduled.

ONCC supports the efforts by our Illinois Congressional leaders to "urge the FAA to expedite its review of the air traffic noise metrics that govern airport operations and to institute changes."

Another runway is scheduled to open at O'Hare in October 2015. With your support, I know we can work together to begin needed research to re-evaluate the validity of current noise standards before that new runway opens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arlene J. Mulder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Arlene J. Mulder, Chairman

Cc: Lourdes Maurice, Executive Director, Office of Environment
and Energy, FAA
Barry Cooper, Administrator, Great Lakes Region, FAA
Jeanette Camacho, Executive Director, O'Hare Noise Compatibility
Commission
Members, Illinois Congressional Delegation
Members, O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission