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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The O'Hare Modernization Program, approved in 2003, has generated serious noise issues that affect the quality of life and health of a significant number of household residents living adjacent to the airport, especially persons who live directly east and west of the new parallel runways that now carry most of O'Hare's jet airplane traffic; and

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WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the federal agency that regulates all aspects of United States commercial flight, granted permission to the City of Chicago and O'Hare airport to carry out its current expansion, and its permission was based on: (a) noise projections generated prior to approval of the modernization plan, and (b) ongoing monitoring of O'Hare airport noise through the use of noise-monitoring technology that was adequate for that purpose based upon 1990s standards; and

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WHEREAS, During the years since the Illinois General Assembly approved the O'Hare Modernization Program in 2003, the City of Chicago has carried out noise monitoring in cooperation with the FAA based upon the technological standards and practices that were in place at the start of the modernization program; and

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1           WHEREAS, The "noise contour maps" generated by City of  
2 Chicago/FAA data are public documents that are used to measure  
3 the impact of O'Hare noise on its neighbors and, in some cases,  
4 to allocate soundproofing aid to owners of residential,  
5 educational, commercial, and industrial properties, if they  
6 are located within the "contours" of noise impact measured by  
7 O'Hare Modernization Program noise impact collection data; and

8           WHEREAS, Many of the constituents of the co-sponsors of  
9 this resolution do not live within these Modernization Program  
10 noise contours, but tell us that they are severely and  
11 negatively affected by O'Hare Airport noise; and

12           WHEREAS, New technologies, distributed and made available  
13 since 2003, have created a new standard, the "Community Noise  
14 Equivalent Level" or CNEL for short, which has significantly  
15 changed and improved the way that technology can measure the  
16 impact of airplane noise on human quality of life; and

17           WHEREAS, In response to Illinois constituent concerns, the  
18 General Assembly, in the spring of 2015, enacted P.A. 99-202,  
19 amending the Permanent Noise Monitoring Act to mandate the use,  
20 going forward, of Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)  
21 technologies and noise measurement data in the monitoring of  
22 noise in and around O'Hare Airport; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we commend the  
3 generation of new CNEL data as a way for the communities around  
4 O'Hare International Airport to better understand the impact of  
5 airport noise on their communities and quality of life; and be  
6 it further

7           RESOLVED, That we commend the City of Chicago for  
8 supporting P.A. 99-202 and call upon it to continue to take  
9 steps to implement the law and generate the data mandated by  
10 this Public Act; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That we call upon the Federal Aviation  
12 Administration to assist the City of Chicago in the  
13 implementation of P.A. 99-202, including the siting,  
14 re-siting, and re-equipping of noise monitoring stations, and  
15 the generation and publication of data generated by these  
16 stations in conformity with CNEL professional standards; and be  
17 it further

18           RESOLVED, That we re-affirm that the noise contour maps  
19 that cover areas surrounding O'Hare Airport, and describe the  
20 impacts of noise upon these communities, should be based upon  
21 the best and newest possible data and technology; and be it  
22 further

1           RESOLVED, That we call upon the FAA to use new CNEL data to  
2           revisit the existing noise contour maps that cover areas  
3           surrounding O'Hare Airport, and to promptly redraw these maps  
4           as new airport noise data is submitted; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
6           submitted to the Director of the Federal Aviation  
7           Administration and to the Mayor of the City of Chicago.