

DONALD A. MANZULLO
16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SENIOR REPUBLICAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC,
AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1316

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,
INSURANCE, AND GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

HOUSE MANUFACTURING CAUCUS
FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Quinn,
Governor
State of Illinois

Dear Governor Quinn,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the state government's continuing plan to waste billions of taxpayer dollars on developing a third Chicagoland airport in Peotone. The current state capital plan allocates another \$100 million to the proposed South Suburban airport. More than 2,000 acres of land have already been purchased for the project, with a planned purchase of over 5,000 acres. We believe it is unconscionable for the State of Illinois to continue to waste precious taxpayer resources on this unnecessary project as the state struggles with record budget deficits and debt.

Additionally, just last week the U.S. Department of Transportation announced an agreement between the major airlines and the city of Chicago that will allow the O'Hare Modernization Program to move forward, add runway capacity, and prevent flight delays from growing to unacceptable levels. In light of this major expansion of O'Hare International Airport, it is even more egregious and unnecessary for the state of Illinois to continue to spend scarce taxpayer dollars on the South Suburban airport that the airlines have said they do not want or need.

As an alternative to Peotone, the existing Chicago-Rockford International Airport (RFD) currently offers passenger air service and can ramp up quickly to accept even more passenger flights and relieve O'Hare without spending hordes of taxpayer's money.

RFD has been characterized in the past by the Illinois Department of Transportation as **the airport with the greatest potential for development of passenger service and the ability to maintain passenger service**. Over the past 15 years, RFD has undergone more than \$150 million in federally funded capital improvements, including the construction of a 10,000-foot runway (second longest in the state), a new international terminal, and a Category III Instrument Landing System that can land any plane that flies, along with state of the art de-icing facilities. RFD can easily accommodate 1 million passengers today with no additional investment and with some additional terminal gates can easily serve 5 million passengers a year.

(more)

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:

2228 RAYBURN BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC 20515 • 202/225-5676 • FAX: 202/225-5284
<http://manzullo.house.gov>

DISTRICT OFFICES:

□ 415 SOUTH MULFORD ROAD, ROCKFORD, IL 61108 • 815/394-1231 • FAX: 815/394-3930
□ 101 NORTH VIRGINIA, SUITE 170, CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014 • 815/356-9800 • FAX: 815/356-9803

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Governor, in these desperate economic times for our state, we ask that you abandon these wasteful plans at Peotone and we urge you and the Illinois Secretary of Transportation to come out to Rockford to meet with us and learn first-hand the potential that exists here. We stand ready to assist you in whatever way necessary. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Manzullo
Member of Congress



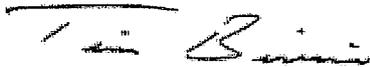
Joe Sosnowski
IL State Representative



Dave Syverson
IL State Senator



Christine Johnson
IL State Senator



Tim Bivins
IL State Senator



Dave Winters
IL State Representative



Jim Sacia
IL State Representative



Robert Pritchard
IL State Representative