

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2017

Governor Bruce Rauner
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

We write to you today to express our collective support for construction of the South Suburban Airport here in Illinois – a project that we’re confident has all the critical components necessary to become America’s newest, safest, “greenest,” most efficient, customer-friendly airport.

Our state has tremendous potential to be an incubator of innovation and generator of growth for our nation. Without a doubt, Chicago has proven itself to be the ideal geographic center for our nation’s economic growth, and is a well-established, pre-eminent commercial hub. That being the case, it’s important to note that Chicago’s two airports hit operational capacity years ago, constraining future growth. South Suburban Airport is strategically located in our fastest-growing county and within America’s busiest inland port -- served by a matrix of interstate highways, all Class 1 railroads, and maritime links to the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. Moreover, some 2 million people live within 45 minutes of the airport site and form its own supportive customer base.

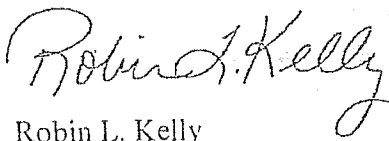
This airport is designed to complement – not compete – with O’Hare and Midway and would create tens of thousands of new private-sector jobs and generate hundreds of millions of dollars annually in new property, income and sales taxes (quickly offsetting IDOT’s project costs heretofore). The airport has enjoyed bipartisan support from the previous five governors, scores of elected officials, and business leaders from South Cook, Will and Kankakee counties.

For 30 years the FAA has demanded that Illinois expand its aviation capacity, and now we finally have in place virtually all the component parts – legislative authority, land assemblage, and infrastructure investors willing to commit their resources and expertise to building a South Suburban Airport at no additional cost to our state.

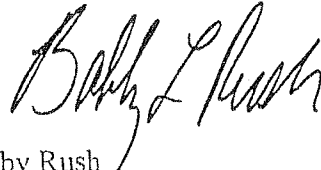
Make no small plans, they say. Well, make no mistake. This is a defining moment for Illinois. This will be the first major new airport built in America in 30-plus years and the first to utilize public-private financing. Once built, it will expand Illinois' connectivity with the rest of the nation and world, and serve its residents for 50 years as an additional economic anchor.

The South Suburban Airport's time has come. We strongly urge you to move forward quickly in seeking a development partner that will assure Illinois remains the aviation envy of the world.

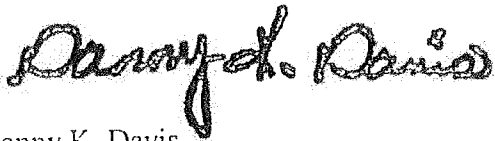
Sincerely,



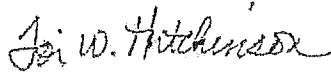
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



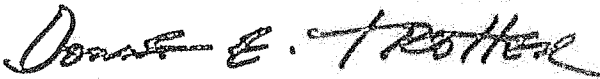
Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Toi Hutchinson
State Senator



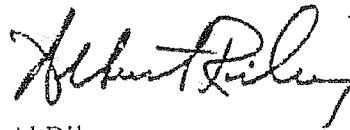
Donne Trotter
State Senator



Jacqueline Collins
State Senator



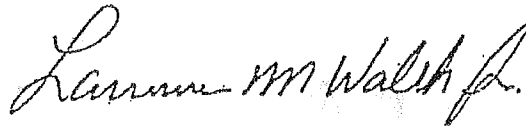
William Q. Davis
State Representative



Al Riley
State representative



Anthony DeLuca
State Representative



Lawrence Walsh Jr.
State Representative



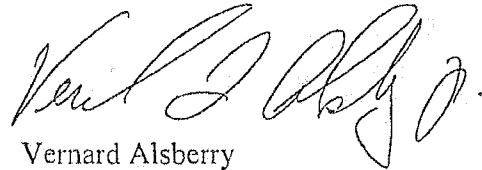
Marcus C. Evans Jr.
State Representative



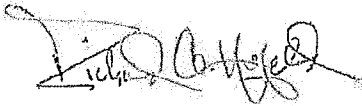
Elgie R. Sims Jr.
State Representative



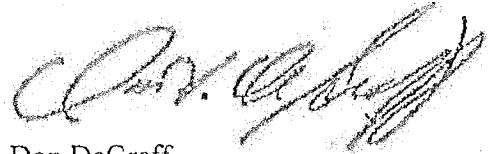
Paul Schore
Mayor of Bourbonnais



Vernard Alsberry
Mayor of Hazel Crest



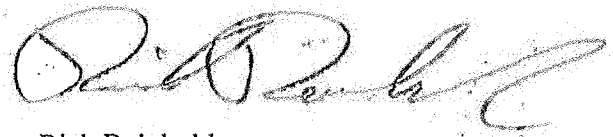
Rich Hofeld
Mayor of Homewood



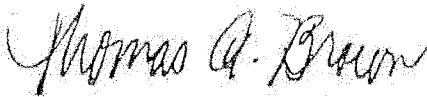
Don DeGraff
Mayor of South Holland



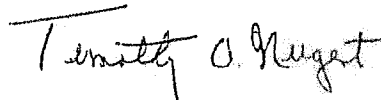
Gene Williams
Mayor of Lynwood



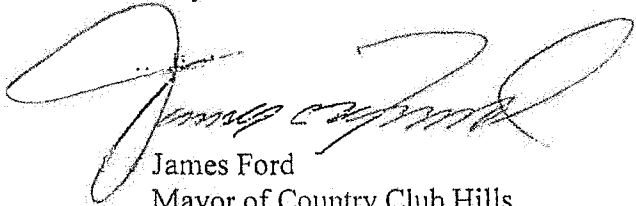
Rick Reinbold
Mayor of Richton Park



Thomas Brown
Mayor of East Hazel Crest



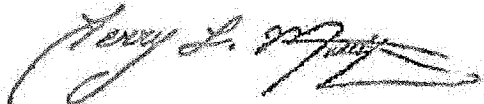
Timothy Nugent
Mayor of Manteno



James Ford
Mayor of Country Club Hills



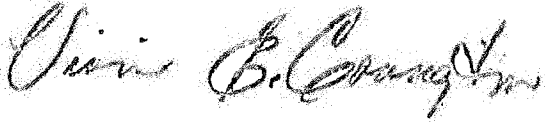
Riley Rogers
Mayor of Dolton



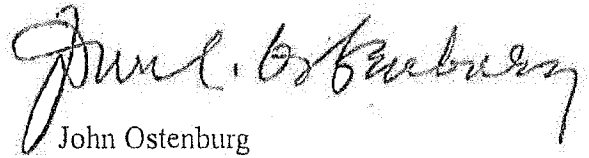
Terry Matthews
Mayor of South Chicago Heights



Bob Kolosh
Mayor of Thornton




Vivian Covington
Mayor of University Park



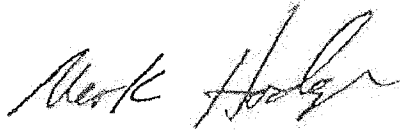
John Ostenburg
Mayor of Park Forest



Sheila Chalmers-Currin
Mavor of Matteson



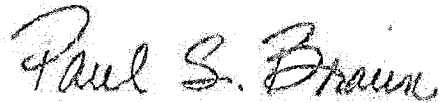
James Popp
Mayor of Monee



Mark Hodge
Mayor of Hopkins Park



Brian Stump
Mayor of Aroma Park



Paul Braun
Mayor of Flossmoor