

An Open Letter regarding Meigs Field, to:

The Honorable Governor George H. Ryan
The Honorable Mayor Richard M. Daley

Dear Governor Ryan and Mayor Daley:

We, the undersigned organizations, represent the many facets of modern aviation in the United States and the business community in the Midwest. Together, our members and their employees include over one million individuals and 24,000 corporations nationwide.

We commend both of you for tackling the important issue of the regional aviation system in the Chicago area because businesses and citizens in and around Chicago rely on and benefit from an efficient aviation system.

Meigs Field is an important part of the Chicago area airport system. The tens of thousands of aircraft annually using Meigs Field instead of the major commercial airports free up slots for commercial airliners, and reduce delays at those airports. Aviation is vital to the area's economy, with Meigs users spending hundreds of millions of dollars and creating thousands of jobs in downtown Chicago.

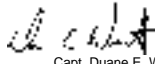
Meigs Field plays an irreplaceable role in protecting Chicago and its citizens during emergencies, including air-sea rescues; transport of critical-care patients and transplant organs; and high-rise rescue operations. Meigs Field also is a crucial element of the region's disaster preparedness, and provides positive air traffic control for all aircraft in the downtown Chicago area.


We urge you to work out a plan that keeps Meigs Field—Chicago's downtown airport—open permanently. With a long-term future, needed investments in the airport's facilities, equipment and infrastructure can be justified.

Your recent actions in recommending plans for the Chicago area aviation system clearly demonstrate a commitment to the needs of the region's aviation system. Meigs Field should remain an integral part of that system.

We pledge our help and support to you as you work to achieve this goal.

Signed,


Capt. Duane E. Woerth, President
Air Line Pilots Association

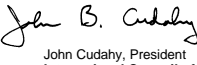

Ed Bolen, President
General Aviation Manufacturers
Association

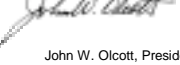

Douglas L. Whitley, President
Illinois State Chamber of
Commerce


Henry Ogrodzinski, President
National Association of State
Aviation Officials


Paula Derks, President
Aircraft Electronics Association



Roy Resavage, President
Helicopter Association
International


John Cudahy, President
International Council of Air
Shows

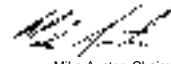

John W. Olcott, President
National Business Aviation
Association


Phil Boyer, President
Aircraft Owners and Pilots
Association

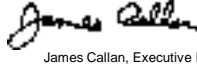

Craig Felty, RN, President
Illinois Association of Air and
Critical Care Transport

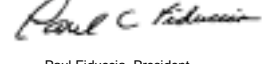

Donald Koranda, President
National Aeronautic Association


Brian Finnegan, President
Professional Aviation
Maintenance Association

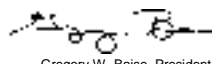

Mike Auster, Chairman
AirLifeLine Midwest


Tom Green, President
Illinois Aviation Trades
Association

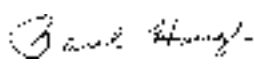

James Callan, Executive Director
National Agricultural Aviation
Association


Paul Fiduccia, President
Small Aircraft Manufacturers
Association



R.M. "Pete" Stofen, President
Chicago Area Business Aviation
Association



Gregory W. Baise, President
Illinois Manufacturers
Association



John S. Carr, President
National Air Traffic Controllers
Association

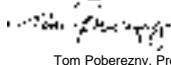

Paul Hough, President
United States Pilots Association


Bill Kugelmann, President
Chicago Firefighters Union,
Local 2


David Block, President
Illinois Pilots Association


James Coyne, President
National Air Transportation
Association


James S. Haney
Wisconsin Manufacturers and
Commerce


Tom Poberezny, President
Experimental Aircraft
Association

