



July 10, 2023

Alsip
Beecher
Blue Island
Burnham
Calumet City
Calumet Park
Chicago Heights
Country Club Hills
Crestwood
Crete
Dixmoor
Dolton
East Hazel Crest
Flossmoor
Ford Heights
Glenwood
Harvey
Hazel Crest
Homewood
Lansing
Lynwood
Markham
Matteson
Midlothian
Mokena
Monee
Oak Forest
Olympia Fields
Orland Hills
Orland Park
Park Forest
Peotone
Phoenix
Posen
Richton Park
Riverdale
Robbins
Sauk Village
South Chicago Heights
South Holland
Steger
Thornton
Tinley Park
University Park
Worth

Honorable J.B. Pritzker
Governor
100 W. Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Pritzker,

As mayors representing over 700,000 residents and 20,000 businesses within the Chicago Southland, we want to thank you for signing into law the bipartisan South Suburban Airport bill (HB 2531). We are thrilled that Public Act 103-0317 puts our Southland region on the path to rebuilding our economy in the foreseeable future. After nearly 30 years of delay, with your signature and directive for IDOT to issue an open call to interested parties that are experienced private sector developers able to develop, construct, and manage the South Suburban Airport, we now have a solid opportunity to leverage our expansive transportation network and assets for the betterment of the region.

With this important legislation now signed, we're confident that the private sector will respond to the State's call early next year and prove they are willing to finance and build a smart, green airport in the South Suburban region that expands Illinois' aviation capacity and brings sorely needed jobs to our diverse, hard-working region.

We look forward to working with you to bring to fruition this necessary investment. Our State and region can and should plan for—and advance—a carbon neutral, environmentally sustainable “green” state of the art South Suburban Airport. We commit to working together with you to this end so we achieve transformational inclusive economic growth in the South Suburbs.

Thank you again for taking prompt action and signing into law Public Act 103-0317.

Sincerely,

SSMMA President Ron Gardiner
President, Village of Glenwood

Legislative Chairman Rick Reinbold Village
Village President, Village of Richton Park

In addition to the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) leaders above, the following members add their names to this letter:

Mayor John Ryan
Village of Alsip

Mayor Fred Bilotto
City of Blue Island

President Robert E. Polk
Village of Burnham

Mayor Thaddeus Jones
City of Calumet City

Mayor Ronald Denson
Village of Calumet Park

Mayor David A. Gonzalez
City of Chicago Heights

Mayor James W. Ford
City of Country Club Hills

Mayor Kenneth Klein
Village of Crestwood

President Michael S. Einhorn
Village of Crete

President Fitzgerald Roberts
Village of Dixmoor

President Thomas A. Brown
Village of East Hazel Crest

Mayor Michelle Nelson
Village of Flossmoor

Mayor Charles Griffin
Village of Ford Heights

Mayor Christopher Clark
City of Harvey

Mayor Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr.
Village of Hazel Crest

President Richard A. Hofeld
Village of Homewood

President Patricia Eidam
Village of Lansing

President Jada Curry
Village of Lynwood

Mayor Roger A. Agpawa
City of Markham

President Sheila Chalmers-Currin
Village of Matteson

President Gary L'Heureux
Village of Midlothian

Mayor Henry "Hank" Kuspa
City of Oak Forest

President Sterling Burke
Village of Olympia Fields

President Kyle R. Hastings
Village of Orland Hills

President Keith Pekau
Village of Orland Park

President Joseph Woods
Village of Park Forest

President Terry R. Wells
Village of Phoenix

President Frank A. Podbielniak
Village of Posen

President Lawrence Jackson
Village of Riverdale

Mayor Darren Bryant
Village of Robbins

Mayor Derrick Burgess
Village of Sauk Village

President Terry Matthews
Village of South Chicago Heights

President Don A. De Graff
Village of South Holland

President Robert "Bob" Kolosh
Village of Thornton

Mayor Joseph Roudez III
Village of University Park

Mayor Mary Werner
Village of Worth

Should you have any questions, please contact SSMMA Executive Director Kristi DeLaurentiis at kdelaurentiis@ssmma.org or 708.922.4670 for more information. Thank you.

Cc: Senate Leader Napoleon B. Harris, III
House Leader Representative William Davis