



**FAiR Solutions:**  
Neighborhood-based air traffic plan  
Mandatory "Fly Quiet"  
Noise monitoring and abatement  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Use all runways

*FAiR gathers democratically as a citizen led initiative to build community*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR) Coalition  
Father and Daughter Musical Team  
Release YouTube O'Hare Noise Protest Song.**

FAiR Coalition member, songwriter, and performer Joel Frankel and his daughter, Layla, have released the new song "Highway Over Our Heads," to protest the massive increase in noise and air pollution over Chicago and suburban residents since the October 2013 runway takeoff and landing pattern changes at O'Hare. The 2:25 minute YouTube video is quickly gaining popularity with over 500 views average per week in the last 3 weeks. "Highway Over Our Heads" tells the story of what it was like to wake up one day and have life turned upside down by the new runway patterns at O'Hare without having had any real say in how these changes were made. Citizens were completely left out of the planning process by the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and continue to be ignored despite record numbers of complaints.

"We have lived in our house - 12 miles from O'Hare - for over twenty years." says Frankel, a resident of Chicago's North Park neighborhood. "I'd walk our dog and never much notice, let alone be bothered by the airplanes. Now I dread it...It's a constant, almost unrelenting roar. Chicago should be a city to live in, not a city to leave from. Sadly, we'll probably move if this doesn't change. For my family, the quality of life is really that diminished." Mr. Frankel continues, "The FAA and the City changed the rules in the middle of the game. One day, we wake up and it's like the City has moved the nation's second busiest airport right next to our neighborhood. All the politicians talk about is soundproofing. How will they soundproof our streets, yards, parks, and forest preserves that we use all the time? "

Frankel's wife and fellow FAiR member Helen Rosenberg adds, "People on the ground in communities all over had no say in the O'Hare runway planning process and we have yet another runway opening in 2015. Incredibly, Mayor Emanuel continues to ignore his constituents and doesn't even have the courtesy to respond to citizen requests to meet. When democracy fails, a song can be very effective." said Ms. Rosenberg. "And while we can cover our ears, we can't cover our lungs. Will the mayor continue his

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silence about the real risks and concerns about both noise and air pollution? The planes are never silent; they can be heard all the time. FAiR is the only voice speaking up for residents.”

Frankel was helped in making the YouTube version of the song by videographer, David Seman of Folding Pictures, Inc. The illustrations were provided by children from an elementary school on Chicago’s north side and animated by Tom Goodman, another FAiR member and neighbor of Frankel’s. “This is a game changer for so many people - families are affected daily by the noise and air pollution. As I’m a songwriter, I wrote this protest song; recruited my daughter and some very creative neighborhood friends and we made the video. For me, the best part is the great animations made by the kids from a nearby school.”

The FAiR Coalition invites everybody to view and share “Highway Over Our Heads” on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sydMFPQAY-M>

Highway Over Our Heads by Joel Frankel

Well the northwest side of Chicagoland  
has thousands of houses and homes  
It has parks to play in with children and friends,  
A river and places to roam  
But one day the many people living there  
looked up as they slipped out of bed  
And when they looked up high with their eyes to the sky  
they saw a highway over their heads

Highway over their heads  
Compliments of the feds  
If they lived in this town  
If they lived in those houses  
The FAA would never allow this

The highway jammed with silver jets  
queued up in a never ending line  
Some folks below heard the writing on the wall  
started looking for a "For Sale" sign  
So say good-bye to the peace and the quiet of the night  
Say hello to the rumble and the roar

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Say goodbye to the health of your family  
Say hello to staying indoors

Highway over our heads  
Over our roofs and beds  
It's pollution of sound, it's pollution of air  
But big money's in it so they just don't care

Now there's a way to change where they send these planes  
and respect communities  
But we gotta make noise from ground up  
We gotta make our own db's  
Then we won't say good-bye to the sweet outdoors  
and we won't say hello to good-bye

Then we won't say goodbye to the rumble and the roar  
Just good-bye to the highway in the sky  
Highway over our heads  
Over our roofs and beds  
It's pollution of sound it's pollution of air  
All the things that we don't want here.

(copyright Joel Frankel 2014)

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The Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR) Coalition is a rapidly growing movement of citizens and civics on Chicago's Northwest side and the near Northwest suburbs. FAiR is the leading voice for both city and suburban residents negatively impacted by the new runway takeoff and landing patterns. FAiR supports the economic engine that is O'Hare while also seeking a real role in when and where those engines fly over the residents, homes, parks and schools of impacted communities. FAiR recognizes that two more runways are yet to be completed and the problems posed by yet more massive increases in airplane traffic will only become worse if citizens do not have a voice in the process.

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FAiR requests residents report airplane noise complaints online throughout the day at [www.fairchicago.org](http://www.fairchicago.org) or 800-435-9569. Citizens and civic organizations are invited to learn more about and join FAiR at [www.fairchicago.org](http://www.fairchicago.org). FAiR is also on Facebook.

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