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## **DURBIN'S SUPPORT FOR HALVORSON DISRESPECT'S SOUTH SUBURBAN VOTERS**

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D) of Illinois seems to have continued disrespect for the voters of the southern suburbs of Chicago. Last November, Senator Durbin suggested the Abraham Lincoln National Airport Commission's funding with its private investors was "questionable."

This past Friday, it was reported in Chicago Crain's Business that Durbin is "personally lobbying" for former one-term Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson appointment as Secretary of The Illinois Department of Transportation. Halvorson who lost her re-election bid to Republican unknown Adam Kinzinger.

ALNAC's Chairman, Mayor Alvin R. McCowan of University Park, IL said, "As a sitting mayor in her district, Debbie Halvorson never introduced any transportation project in her district as Senate Majority Leader. As a matter of fact Ms. Halvorson has continually sided against the overwhelming support for ALNAC by mayors and their constituents in her district. For Senator Durbin to push someone as unqualified as Debbie Halvorson as Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary, it is disrespectful to the constituents of the south suburbs. ALNAC and its voters will not allow this to happen."

Halvorson has been a polarizing figure in the airport debate. In May of 2009 Halvorson muddied the airport discussion by publicly stating that she would create her own airport authority. It went know-where fast. But ALNAC Vice-Chairman, Mayor John Ostenburg of Park Forest, IL states that her name surfacing for the post may be a last ditch attempt to stall negotiations between ALNAC and the state of Illinois.

"Our (ALNAC's) conversations with Governor Quinn and the state have been progressing, albeit slowly. But he says that he wants to get this deal done. But we would hate to think what decisions we would face if Ms. Halvorson would somehow be named to this post. It would be very disheartening and would truly threaten the integrity and the future of the Abraham Lincoln National Airport. ALNAC and its voters would feel highly disrespected if Governor Quinn would appoint her IDOT secretary after all of the work south suburban mayors and their voters put in to make certain that their interests were protected with his re-election."

Supporters of ALNAC such as the South Suburban Action Council (SSAC), The Minister's Conference of South Cook County, Friends of ALNAC and other south suburban organizations are planning to seek an urgent meeting with Governor Quinn to address the IDOT appointment and the slow progress of The Abraham Lincoln National Airport.

SSAC President, Apostle Georgina Ayala of Christian Destiny center in South Holland stated, "We are in a day and age where everyday people are concerned about where they going to get their next meal, how they are going to pay their rent and buy shoes for their children. Governor Quinn came and asked for our support during the election. We delivered for him. For that effort, he needs to enter into an agreement, 'as fast as humanly possible' with ALNAC. As for Senator Durbin, he never comes to the south suburbs to meet with our region's leaders to discuss what our needs and wants are. We need jobs and economic growth. If that not a concern for him and Governor Quinn, the maybe we should look at direct action to force progress. We are tired of politics, its games and the havoc it creates on everyday lives."

Mayor McCowan says that he is still waiting to hear from Durbin. "Back in November, I challenged Senator Durbin to dialogue with ALNAC to gain some understanding about our region and why this project is necessary for its growth as well as the state's growth. I still haven't heard from him. I would love to believe that people in the south suburbs matter to him. But for nearly 600,000 people who believe in this project, I guess to Durbin, they don't matter."

For more information about the Abraham Lincoln National Airport and how you can support it, please visit our website at [www.abelincolnairport.com](http://www.abelincolnairport.com).

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