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DECEMBER 2, 2010



## **REV. JESSE L. JACKSON, SR. APPEALS FOR CLERGY ACTION FOR ALNAC**

Dear Pastors and Clergy of the South Suburbs of Chicago:

The nation has been gripped by The Great Recession for nearly four years. Our economic infrastructure has been tested to its core. Families are under tremendous pressure to make ends meet. Many have fallen victim to home foreclosure. Also many are still unemployed with very little hope for change. As we speak, Congress has passed legislation to cut extensions for unemployment benefits. This will place even more pressure on families who are suffering during this day of economic challenge. Subsequently, this places a greater burden on churches to provide services for those who been affected. And it creates more instability for our churches who now often find themselves operating with less. More and more are finding themselves trying to climb out of a hole with no rope for escape.

In the south suburbs, there is a rope called The Abraham Lincoln National Airport Commission. ALNAC is a commission of over 30 communities who have agreed to support the building of an airport that will provide 1,000 construction jobs and 15,000 permanent jobs for an area that has no economic engine. ALNAC has private funding from two world-wide developers of \$400 million and \$1 billion in bonds backing it up. There is no money needed from our state or federal government.

Airports are not just for airplanes...They are for cargo and hotels, restaurants, ticket agents, mechanics, baggage handlers, bus drivers and security. They provide a diverse array of jobs.

So what is needed to build the airport? A land lease agreement with the State of Illinois, signed by Governor Pat Quinn's own executive authority. Gov. Quinn in March 2009 said that he wanted to "build the airport as fast as humanly possible." But 20 months later, Gov. Quinn still can't find a way into an agreement with ALNAC. Daley is almost gone, Blagojevich is gone and Halverson is gone. All that's in the way is Gov. Quinn.

On November 2nd, voters of the southern suburbs came out in tremendous numbers to elect Governor Quinn. He won by 21,000 votes. The south suburbs provided a margin for Quinn of over 75,000 votes. We can do the math and determine that the south suburbs won this election for Gov. Quinn. Curiously, ALNAC has not heard from him....So how do we get a return on our vote?

We MUST decide to fight for an ALNAC airport. There are those who would rather watch ALNAC till the soil, plant the seeds, water and fertilize the opportunity for a new airport and then take the fruit and the harvest leaving us to fight for crumbs. We have NEVER lost a battle that we have chosen to fight! As a result, we have launched The Abraham Lincoln National Airport Commission Petition drive. We supported Gov. Quinn and his jobs platform, which included the airport. We now respectfully ask the governor to name ALNAC as airport co-sponsor and to enter into a land lease agreement to create thousands of jobs and strengthen our state's economy. We are asking members of your churches to sign this petition. For information about the petition, contact Al Penn at 312. 473.0775 or email at [pennalgermon@aol.com](mailto:pennalgermon@aol.com) .

Finally, I'm asking for as many of you as possible to meet me on Thursday, December 9th at the Odyssey Country Club 19110 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Tinley Park IL at 3:00 PM. There we will meet with you to discuss our petition drive and finalize our plans for a prayer vigil for jobs on Friday, December 17th at 12:00 noon. At 4:00 PM, I am asking you to stand with south suburban mayors and ALNAC leadership for a press conference regarding The Abraham Lincoln National Airport. Afterwards, there will be a brief discussion about the merits of the airport and where we go from there.

I look to see you there....

Keep Hope Alive,

**Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.**

*Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.*  
President & Founder  
Rainbow-PUSH Coalition