

TUA NEWS RELEASE

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Monster Peotone Airport Boondoggle On Back Burner, Waiting In The Wings

“Our organization, working with local taxpayer activists, has been fighting this hideous boondoggle for decades,” said Jim Tobin, economist and president of Taxpayers United of America (TUA). “Like a bad fungus infection, it never has totally gone away.”

Anthony Rayson, the co-founder of STAND (Shut This Airport Nightmare Down), wrote this 10 years ago:

Residents are trying to defend their community from a massive new airport project, over three times the size of Chicago O’Hare. In an unfortunate turn of events, politicians have pitted community against community, trying to appease impacted Chicago airport neighbors by creating the same problem elsewhere, in nearby Peotone County.

The Peotone Airport is a unique (and huge) sprawl offensive. It is not industry driven, but rather, a purely political creation. It is touted as being a huge job-creator that will revitalize a depressed southland, which has seen the steel factories (and others) be shipped overseas, and this was way before the 2008 economic meltdown. The site they have chosen for this massive project (they want to eventually acquire 22,000 acres – almost 37 square miles!) is located in prime farmland, far from any type of necessary infrastructure that would be necessary for it to function as an airport. They also intend to build a tollway to and through it, on into Indiana. Many warehouses and rail yards would glut the area with heavy truck and train traffic, destroying the environment and livability of this still pristine area.

Two years ago, the *Chicago Tribune*, perhaps sensing some rumblings, published an editorial entitled, “Gov. J.B. Pritzker shouldn’t squander \$205 million on the flight of fancy known as the Peotone airport,” adding, “The idea of an airport in Peotone has been debated for decades...Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s five-year, \$23.5 billion plan to rebuild Illinois’ roads and bridges includes \$205.5 million for a highway infrastructure project that has no reason to be. Put another way: The costly road project would serve a potential airport that no one needs and on which no one — except Pritzker and local officials — wants to squander even more money than taxpayers already have.”

“This argument is just as valid today,” said Tobin. “To be blunt, Gov. Jay Robert ‘J. B.’ Pritzker and the Springfield Democrats are owned by the state’s labor unions and politically-connected contractors. Pritzker and his Springfield thugs feel no allegiance whatsoever to Illinois taxpayers who are paying their fat salaries. Well, Illinois taxpayers feel no allegiance to Pritzker and the Springfield Democrats. If they keep trying to foist these gigantic boondoggles on taxpayers, there will be hell to pay in future elections.”