

APPENDIX O

“Give me a 40 mile road and I can go to the next county, give me an airport and I can go any where in the world.”

I had planed to vote against any move to close Chapel Hill’s airport. The proposal is to relocate to the second busiest commercial airport in North Carolina (RDU) and close the general aviation airport serving Orange County with three published instrument procedures.

This morning RDU which is 18 Miles from downtown Chapel Hill has heavy traffic. In addition, aircraft approaches and departures are delayed for over an hour at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Here at Chapel Hill there are minimum delays or security issues to affect flights.

Closure would not only impinge on the mission of AHEC but it would also affect access to the research campus, movement of patients, medical support and the community as a whole. In 2004, the North Carolina General Assembly voted to keep it open until a suitable replacement facility was operational. I am not sure what happened.

Nevertheless, the UNC Chapel Hill Administration has insured us that there will be a new airport opening and the temporary hanger to be erected at RDU can be sold or rented at completion. Horace Williams Airport will remain open for at least 18 months and the proposed current construction plan will not impede air operations. As a result, I will support this vote.

Al Roseman