



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eskoo
Fourteenth District
California*

June 21, 2010

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
Department of Defense
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Secretary Mabus,

I'm disturbed by recent news reports stating that the Navy is planning to demolish the Hangar One "cork room" at Moffett Field. The cork room is perhaps the only room of this kind left in the country.

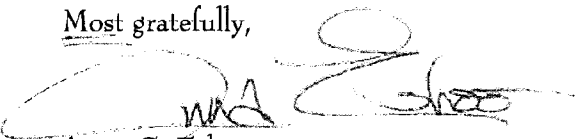
The Navy's last executive officer at Moffett field, Carl Honaker, is quoted saying, "In my opinion the cork room is the most significant historical artifact in the hangar. It's the only physical evidence of the Macon/lighter-than-air era, which was the purpose for constructing the hangar in the first place."

I have several questions about your process for preserving historic artifacts at Hangar One, including the cork room.

- There are several rooms that are being preserved during the Navy's remediation and preservation process of Hangar One because they are connected to the structure of Hangar One. Given that the cork room is also attached to the structure of Hangar One, why is the cork room being treated differently?
- Do you have the technical ability to remediate and preserve the cork room?
- How are you deciding what to preserve?
- Do you have the ability to remove the cork room in one piece? If not, can it be removed in sections that could later be reassembled?
- What are your cost estimates associated with remediating, destroying, or moving the cork room in a state that could be stored and later preserved?
- How much of your overall remediation funds are dedicated to the preservation of historic artifacts and how did you determine that amount?

I fully appreciate your commitment to preserving Hangar One and I look forward to your prompt response to my questions.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



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Memorandum

To: Save Hangar One Committee
From: Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo
Date: June 21, 2010

Re: The "Cork Room" in Hangar One

Thank you for your commitment to preserving Hangar One. Like you, I share your hope that Hangar One, and specifically the 'cork room' can be preserved for generations to come.

I've just sent a letter to Navy Secretary Mabus, expressing my trepidation about the recent news stories indicating that the 'cork room' is going to be destroyed. I question the rationale for destroying this historic room and I look forward to his timely response to my questions. The 'cork room' represents an historic aviation era for our nation and should be saved.

I've attached a copy of my letter for your perusal.