

May 3, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
S128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

NATIONAL
TRUST
FOR
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION®

Stephanie K. Meeks
PRESIDENT

Dear Chairman Mikulski:

As you develop the Subcommittee's spending bill for Fiscal Year 2012, the National Trust for Historic Preservation requests your support for \$32.8 million the President proposes for the rehabilitation of historic Hangar One in Mountain View, California, a place of national importance. This is one of the most recognized landmarks of California's Silicon Valley and saving it largely depends upon these funds.

Polychlorinated biphenyl contamination has forced the Department of the Navy to begin removing the Hangar's historic siding and windows absent the funding necessary for replacement materials. The nearly 80-year old structure's interior framing will soon be exposed to the elements without adequate covering to prevent deterioration and loss. NASA, the agency responsible for its rehabilitation, has indicated that it does not have the resources to save Hangar One absent the monies requested by the Administration.

Hangar One was built in 1932 to house Navy dirigibles and served as a docking station for fully inflated airships. It is an excellent surviving example of early twentieth-century military planning, engineering, and construction in the Streamline Moderne style. It is emblematic of the region's contributions to aviation and space advancement, as well as technology research and development. Hangar One was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994 and, in response to the Navy's initial demolition plan, it was placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2008 list of *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places*. The National Trust is committed to ensuring that this historic resource remains the marvel that it is for understanding America's twentieth-century progress and world leadership in aviation science.

Congress chartered the National Trust in 1949 to facilitate public participation in historic preservation, and to further the purposes of federal historic preservation laws. Advocacy on behalf of valuable and endangered national assets like Hangar One is a critical component of our mission. Today, that landmark faces the real possibility of being lost forever without the urgent funding necessary for its rehabilitation. I urge the Subcommittee to provide the funds proposed in the Administration's FY'12 budget request and protect Hangar One for future generations.

With warmest regards,



Stephanie Meeks

SM:brt

Cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Anna Eshoo
The Honorable Michael Honda
The Honorable Charles Bolden, Jr., NASA Administrator