June 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Mabus,

I write to you regarding an urgent matter involving Hangar One at former Moffett Field Naval Air Station (NAS), located in my District. It has come to my attention that the Navy BRAC Office is executing a plan to quickly start removal of the Hangar's siding without a plan to replace it.

I'm asking you to exercise your leadership to review this plan and put an immediate stop to the plans underway until a full audit/review can be conducted.

The Bay Area Congressional Delegation wrote the enclosed letter to your predecessor, Secretary Winter, on this issue and I urge you to direct your attention to the future of this historic building. Residents in the Bay Area overwhelmingly supported a re-siding of Hangar One during the Navy's public comment period and remain steadfast in their demand that Hangar One not be left as a "skeleton." The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation agrees and after a public hearing last September, sent the enclosed letter to Secretary Winter asking for a re-siding of the Hangar.

I am also enclosing a copy of NASA's recent letter to Assistant Secretary BJ Penn, where it was stated that it is "untenable to pursue a course of action that would result in the structural framework of Hangar One being left exposed by Navy's removal of the exterior siding and roofing, with no follow-on plan for the re-siding necessary for a subsequent adaptive re-use." NASA Ames Research Center has repeatedly expressed its interest in re-using Hangar One, but it cannot do so if Navy BRAC follows through on its plans to strip the Hangar and leave its frame bare.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Enclosures

cc: California Congressional Delegation