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BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS,
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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 15, 2004

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The Honorable Norman Mineta
Secretary
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Mineta:

I am writing to you regarding the scheduled January 5, 2005 auction of the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. While the city of Fullerton, California has asked for your assistance in converting El Toro Air Station into a commercial airport, I urge you reject this request and ensure the land is publicly auctioned on schedule.

Last year, I contacted you to express my strong opposition to Los Angeles World Airport's proposal to transfer the former El Toro Marine base property to the city-controlled agency that operates Los Angeles International Airport and a handful of other airports in the region. You assured me the federal government would not promote or help build a commercial airport at El Toro Air Station. It is my sincere hope that your position has not changed.

Local residents are in the best position to decide what is needed for the future of their region. In 2002, the people of Orange County voted in favor of a referendum to prohibit the use of El Toro Air Station as a commercial airport. I can think of nothing more undemocratic than allowing the fate of local communities to be determined against their will.

Like the rest of Orange County's residents, I believe the land around El Toro Air Station will best meet the needs of Southern Californians through the development of businesses, homes, and parks. The Navy is preparing to auction 3,700 acres of the base next year for parkland, sports fields, and mixed-use development. An additional 1,000 acres is being deeded to the Federal Aviation Administration for the creation of a permanent natural habitat preserve. The auction of El Toro Air Station will generate tax revenue and beautify our communities in Orange County.

I urge you to continue to support the public auction of El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. I look forward to hearing from you on this important issue and to our continued partnership in finding creative solutions to Southern California's transportation challenges.

Sincerely,

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress