

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2003

Ms. Thella Bowens  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority  
P.O. Box 82776  
San Diego, CA 92138

Dear Ms. Bowens:

We write to express our strong objection to your Public Working Group's decision to include active military bases as potential alternative sites for a San Diego regional airport. Your final decision should include criteria that consider national security concerns and only be limited to site selections that are within the realm of possibility.

We find it remarkable that so few of the sites on your list fall within the jurisdiction of your agency. The active military bases you listed in your study as potential sites for a regional airport have a high military value and all of them have a mission that is integral to our national security. These bases have physical attributes that are uniquely suited for training operations that cannot be performed elsewhere. Furthermore, active military bases in the region have complementary functions that are enhanced by their close proximity to one another. These bases have not been marked for closure because they are a critical part of our national security infrastructure.

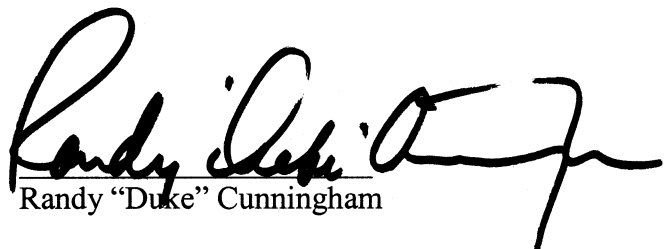
The presence of U.S. military bases and personnel makes a substantial contribution to the local economy. According to the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's most recent data, over 108,300 active military personnel were stationed in San Diego in 2002. The San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates that military personnel and dependents contribute more than \$750 million annually. Nearly one in every ten residents of San Diego is directly tied to the military payroll, including military retirees and veterans. The inclusion of these sites sends the wrong message to our military personnel.

We ask you to immediately remove all the active military bases from your list of potential sites. Continuing to pursue active military bases as potential airport sites without consideration for national security is irresponsible and undermines the validity of your entire effort.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa



Randy "Duke" Cunningham

Ken Calvert Duncan Hunter  
Ken Calvert Duncan Hunter

Susan G. Davis Bob Filner  
Susan Davis Bob Filner