



HARBOR ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

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October 28, 2010

Ms. Cindy Miscikowski
President
Board of Harbor Commissioners
Port of Los Angeles
P.O. Box 151
San Pedro, CA 90733


Dear Commissioner Miscikowski:

The Harbor Association of Industry & Commerce (HAIC) is a non-profit industrial trade association dedicated to the growth and economic development of the San Pedro Bay area. We provide a collective voice for the harbor business community on important issues pertaining to economic development, environmental issues and public policy. Our 150 member firms employ in excess of 250,000 individuals and have a significant interest in the economic growth of San Pedro.

HAIC strongly supports the Pacific Battleship Center's proposal to bring the ex-USS Iowa to San Pedro as a museum. With its name recognition, the Iowa would be a marquee attraction drawing visitors to San Pedro and as such would play a vital role in the revitalization of the San Pedro waterfront, creating synergy with the other military and maritime museums in San Pedro and with a redeveloped Ports O' Call retail and dining complex. Display of the ship in San Pedro would be highly appropriate because of San Pedro's past as a homeport for battleships, and may be accommodated within the approved San Pedro Waterfront Plan.

The Pacific Battleship Center has a good business plan and the necessary financial backing and talent pool to make an Iowa museum in San Pedro successful. The Port of Los Angeles is not being asked to shoulder the financial risk for the project, and in fact will realize income from the ship's presence. The ship's berth can even be changed after she arrives, if necessary. But the chance to acquire the Iowa is a "pop-up" opportunity in which the Navy's requirements must be met on a short timeline. We urge approval of this project at the November 2010 Board of Harbor Commissioners meeting, so that the submission to the Navy may be completed by the application deadline, and this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring a famous, historic attraction to San Pedro may be realized.

Sincerely,


Tabb Bubier
President

cc: The Honorable Anthony R. Villaraigosa, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Mr. Austin Beutner, Deputy Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Mr. Robert Kent, Pacific Battleship Center