



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

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December 13, 2010

Mr. Frank Lennon
President, Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame
PO Box 28701
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Lennon:

I write in enthusiastic support of the proposal to bring the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy to Narragansett Bay as a world-class family attraction, education center, job training facility, and memorial.

As the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the State of Rhode Island, I am charged with facilitating cooperation among the five state departments that currently administer Rhode Island's critical health care and social service programs. It is seldom that I see a project that offers so many potential benefits (including economic development and job training and creation) to these programs at such little risk.

I am particularly enthusiastic about the job training and workforce development programs, which will provide youth with useful skills and experiences on their road to becoming productive members of society. These new initiatives dovetail nicely with several programs already underway under the Department of Children Youth and Families and Department of Human Services umbrellas.

Your student-ready, fully equipped workshops in a multitude of disciplines, hosted in a secure and controllable environment, offer an unparalleled opportunity. They will be a boon to struggling youth, returning veterans, and others needing retraining to become productive members of society.

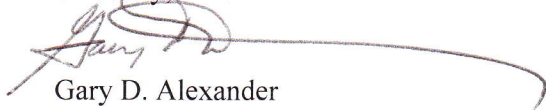
This is also a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire a disaster relief asset of incomparable utility and value.

I am also excited about the project's potential for historic preservation and community enrichment. The aircraft carrier offers a wealth of fully developed space to host other museums, non-profit groups and needy organizations at a cost well below market rates. In particular, this aircraft carrier would be an ideal location to house a Rhode Island Veterans Museum, a project which we have initiated and that will showcase the greatness and sacrifices of our blessed Veterans.

In conclusion, I can see this project becoming an economic engine and job creator with little cost or risk to the State, and fully endorse a financial investment by the State to bring this vision to fruition.

I commend you and your committee for your creative vision and your commitment to enhance Rhode Island's economy.

Sincerely,



Gary D. Alexander
Secretary