

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL
HON. ELLEN TAUSCHER, CHAIR



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.
GOVERNOR

29 May, 2015

California Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., we serve on the Governor's Military Council to support military, national security and maritime operations in California. Our bipartisan group, comprised of retired flag officers, civic leaders and state legislators, works to underscore the unique national security value of California installations. We also work with state leaders to strengthen California's support for military operations in our state.

We write today in support of the U.S. Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) program and the recapitalization of the current aged Medium Endurance Cutters. This 25 ship program is the largest procurement program ever by the Department of Homeland Security and its implementation is very important to our national security.

The OPC is not simply a replacement for older ships. It will serve as the Coast Guard's primary workhorse and multi-mission ship, with entirely new capabilities for a medium endurance cutter. The sustained presence of the OPC far offshore and associated small-boat operations are key to the Coast Guard's Pacific mission where currently only thirteen larger cutters are responsible for patrolling literally half the world: from Asia to California and Antarctica to Alaska's Arctic.

The advanced age and maintenance costs of the existing cutter fleet are beginning to have detrimental effects on the Coast Guard. The current fleet of Medium Endurance Cutters is reaching the end of its useful life after over 50 years of service for many of these cutters. These outdated ships lack the capabilities for today's Coast Guard missions. They cannot operate in the Arctic, Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, harsh winters off New England's coast, and areas of the deep Pacific. Nor can these ships complete lengthy deployments. Further, these ships are increasingly costly to maintain and maintenance problems have interfered with the Coast Guard's ability to meet mission requirements. Tens of millions of dollars in unanticipated expenditures are made each year on unforeseen maintenance issues. Numerous emergency dry dock visits have plagued the fleet and required the Coast Guard to even use parts of ships currently displayed in museums.

If the OPC procurement is delayed or reduced, the Coast Guard's ability to perform its statutorily mandated missions is put at risk. While the program has been minimally delayed in the past, we are concerned that no further reductions occur that would delay this vital national security need.

Providing an enduring security presence offshore requires substantial investment. Current proposals put this investment at risk. For example the program's FY2016 funding request for the new cutter procurement program is reduced from the \$90 million projected under the FY2015 Budget submission,

to \$18.5 million. This proposed funding level would severely diminish the investment necessary for an offshore security presence.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the protection of our maritime borders through procurement of these important cutters. Our staff contact for the Governor's Military Council is Andreas Mueller, in the Governor's Washington D.C. office, who can be reached at 202-734-1478, or andreas.mueller7.nfg@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Members of the Governor's Military Council

Cc: Secretary of DHS
Coast Guard Commandant



Honorable Ellen O. Tauscher
Chair, Governor's Military Council



Major General Alice Astafan
United States Air Force (Ret.)



David S. Baldwin
Major General, US Army
Adjutant General
California Military Department



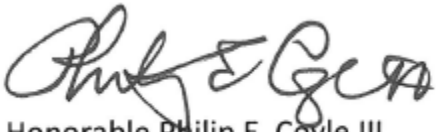
Thomas R. Berard
Senior Executive Service
Department of the Air Force (Ret.)



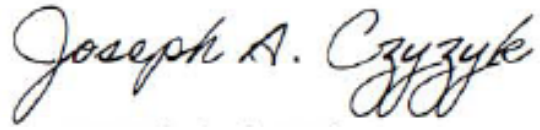
Jody Breckenridge
Vice Admiral, US Coast Guard (Ret.)



Rocky Chavez
Assemblymember, 76th Assembly District
Colonel, US Marine Corps (Ret.)



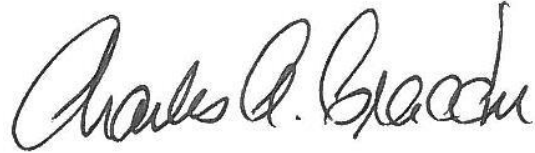
Honorable Philip E. Coyle III



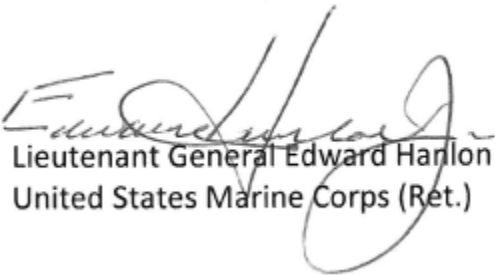
Joseph A. Czyzyk
Chairman and CEO, Mercury Air Group



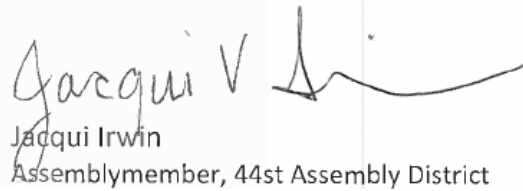
Jean Fuller
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United States Navy (Ret.)



Major General Dennis Kenneally
United States Army (Ret.)



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President, University of San Diego



Rear Admiral Benjamin Montoya
United States Navy (Ret.)



Vice Admiral Daniel Oliver
United States Navy (Ret.)



Richard Roth
State Senator, 31st Senate District
Major General, US Air Force (Ret.)



Lieutenant General Eugene Tattini
United States Air Force (Ret.)