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GARY HART  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
BUDGET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 02 APR 2014 Authority: EO 13526

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

August 28, 1985

The Honorable Caspar Weinberger  
Secretary  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D.C. 20301

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Chief, Rec & Declass Div, WHS

Dear Cap:

It has come to my attention that the recent deliberations of the Defense Resources Board have apparently resulted in a recommendation to delete the 1987 funding request for the Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex. As you are aware, the FY86 Defense Authorization Conference Bill requires the Secretary of the Air Force to place the highest priority on the completion of SOP-C by its planned initial operational capability date of 1992. The recent DRB decision completely contravenes this requirement and violates the intent of the Congress with respect to SOP-C.

I sympathize with the difficult choices which have to be made in allocating our defense resources in this constrained budget environment. The cost of SOP-C was considered fully during deliberations by both the Senate and House Armed Services Committees; however, the final conference agreement reflected the belief that SOP-C was of sufficient importance to our national security to warrant full funding.

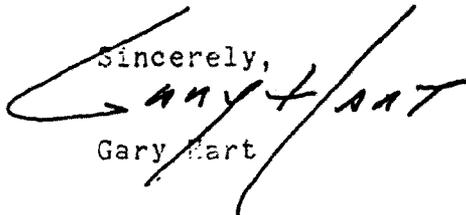
SOP-C is designed to be the planning and control center for military space shuttle flights. Long standing plans have called for locating SOP-C in the Consolidated Space Operations Center in Colorado Springs because of its proximity to NORAD, the Unified Space Command and the military satellite control center in C-SOC. Centralization of the United States military space planning and control facilities continues to be an urgent requirement. Failure to complete SOP-C in Colorado Springs would decentralize and disperse a vital component of space command and control -- and therefore interfere with critical national security goals.

Failure to fund SOP-C would also threaten the future of the shuttle program. Loss of this facility would leave the Johnson Space Center in Houston as the only site for planning and control of military shuttle flights. The Johnson Center would not be able to service the current shuttle schedule on its own, thus requiring either a cutback in the flight schedule or development of another facility at additional

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In short, eliminating SOP-C would mean that any savings achieved would be more than offset by related costs to compensate for the loss of this facility. There is an overwhelming and compelling case for continuation of SOP-C as planned -- as the Congress has recognized. I ask you to reverse the DRB recommendation and ensure completion of SOP-C by 1992 by including a full funding request in the 1987 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Hart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Gary Hart".

Gary Hart

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Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
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