



**FINAL  
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT**



**DISPOSAL OF PORTIONS OF THE FORMER  
HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA**

**DECEMBER 2000**



**VOLUME III: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SEIS**

## ***IN THIS VOLUME***

Volume III contains the comments received on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) distributed for public review in December 1999. It includes transcripts of five public hearings held in south Florida during February 1-3, 2000, and copies of written comments postmarked on or before March 7, 2000, the last day of the public comment period.

The contents of this volume consist of an Introduction; a Comment Index; copies of the public hearing transcripts; copies of individual letters and written comment forms; and samples of identical letters, postcards, and petitions received by the Air Force concerning the contents of the Draft SEIS.

The **Introduction** describes the contents of this volume.

The **Comment Index** lists commentors, first, alphabetically by last name and, second, alphabetically by organization. Specific comments can be found using the following steps:

1. Find the commentor's last name in the first column of the **Individuals** index or the organization in the first column of the **Organizations** index.
2. Find the page number(s) of the comment(s) in the last column of the index. "O" denotes a page from the transcripts of oral comments, "W" denotes a page from the written comments, and "S" denotes a sample letter, postcard, or petition.
3. Turn to the appropriate page number in the **Comments** section.

The **Comments** section contains the public hearing transcripts in chronological order, followed by written correspondence and finally the sample letters, postcards, and petitions.

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**DISPOSAL OF PORTIONS OF THE FORMER  
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**Volume III: Comments on the Draft SEIS**

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**VOLUME III: INTRODUCTION**

This volume contains comments received during the public review and comment period for the *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Disposal of Portions of the Former Homestead Air Force Base, Florida* (December 1999). The public review and comment period started with the publication of a Notice of Availability on January 7 and lasted for 60 days, through March 7, 2000. During this time, five public hearings were held, on February 1, 2, and 3, where people could offer oral and written comments. Verbatim transcripts were taken of the public hearings, and written comments were received throughout the comment period.

The comments are presented in the following segments:

- Transcripts of the public hearings
  - February 1, 2000, 5:30 p.m.–11:45 p.m., South Dade Senior High School, Homestead, Florida
  - February 2, 2000, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Signature Gardens, Kendall, Florida
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  - February 3, 2000, 12:30 p.m.–2:50 p.m., Renaissance Ballroom, Miami, Florida
  - February 3, 2000, 5:30 p.m.–11:25 p.m., Renaissance Ballroom, Miami, Florida
- Written comments postmarked on or before March 7, 2000.
- Sample letters, postcards, and petitions postmarked on or before March 7, 2000.

The written comments include comments sent directly to the Air Force, as well as comments pertaining to the Draft SEIS that were sent to other federal officials (e.g., Secretary of Defense, Vice President, President, member of Congress) and forwarded to the Air Force. A number of individuals sent letters to multiple addressees. If those letters were identical, only one is included in this volume. Similarly, if several people submitted the same letters or postcards or signed petitions, samples of the letters, postcard, and petitions are included in this document rather than all of the individual copies. The samples indicate how many of that particular letter or postcard were received, or how many signatures were on the petition. In general, if commentors submitted attachments or newspaper articles with their comments, they are included. Exceptions are voluminous published documents (such as other environmental impact statements), in which case only the cover is included, and newspaper articles unaccompanied by other comments.

A number of written comments were received after the close of the comment period. They were reviewed by the Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to see if any significant new issues were raised. It was found that the concerns they raised were similar to those raised by other commentors. The late comments have not been included in this document, but the topics they discussed are believed to be addressed.

Following this introduction are two versions of a Comment Index. The first lists individuals who commented at one of the public hearings or in writing, alphabetically by last name. Some of the names on the written comments were not legible, and those are listed as “Unknown.” If commentors identified themselves as affiliated with an organization, that is also listed (in the second column). The second version lists the organizations alphabetically. Neither index includes individuals who sent in pre-printed postcards or who signed petitions, unless they also spoke at a hearing or sent in a separate written comment, but their inputs are part of the record.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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Next to each name and organization is a column with one or more Reference Numbers. If an individual sent in more than one written comment, spoke at more than one hearing, or provided both oral and written comments, multiple Reference Numbers are listed. The Reference Numbers begin with an "O," a "W," or an "S." "O" refers to an oral comment given at one of the public hearings, "W" refers to a written comment, and "S" refers to a sample letter (indicating multiple identical letters received). The last column lists the page number of the comment or letter.

The Reference Numbers on the hearing transcripts are printed next to each commentator's name (without the "O"). The Reference Numbers on the written comments are printed (without the "W") in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the comment. Some numbers in the sequence are missing. This denotes that duplicate copies of some letters were received and only one copy is included.

The Air Force and FAA prepared responses to address the comments received on the Draft SEIS. Those responses are contained in a separate volume, Volume IV.

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<sup>1</sup> "O" refers to public hearing transcripts, "W" to written comments, and "S" to sample letters. The Reference Number is stamped left of the commentator's name in the public hearing transcripts and in the upper right-hand corner of the written comments.

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**Transcript of  
Public Hearing**

**February 1, 2000  
5:30 p.m.–11:45 p.m.**

**South Dade Senior High School  
28401 SW 167 Avenue  
Homestead, Florida**

1

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

ORIGINAL

DISPOSAL OF PORTIONS OF THE FORMER  
HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA  
PUBLIC MEETING

28401 S.W. 167 Avenue  
Homestead, Florida  
February 1, 2000  
5:30 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.

The public meeting was held before COLONEL  
MICHAEL B. MOSHANE, Chief Trial Judge.

18 W FLAGLER ST.     MATZ TRAKHTMAN FELDMAN & WILDER     2256 GLADES ROAD  
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1001 N.E.S. DARY ROAD - SUITE 228     1 EAST BROWARD BOULEVARD - SUITE 700     301 CLEMENS STREET - SUITE 2000  
NORTH MIAMI BEACH     FORT LAUDERDALE     WEST PALM BEACH

2

(Thereupon, these proceedings were held in  
private, before the public meeting began.)

00001 BETTY HUNDEVADT: North to Opa-Locka doesn't  
make any sense for a new commercial airport.  
Think about it. Yes, MIA does need a reliever  
airport -- no question -- but where?  
Opa-Locka Airport comprises eighteen hundred  
acres in an urban area with no room to grow.  
Homestead Airport has a total of three thousand  
acres.  
After extensive studies performed, no  
negative environmental impact would occur. I  
repeat, no negative environmental impact.  
The unemployment rate in Homestead is very  
high, and there is talk of having to close the  
hospital. What is next?  
How does big money talking about using the  
site for a golf course justify this plan, other than  
acquiring more scarce land for themselves?  
The public outcry from people who are using  
their gray matter is: Let's go south to  
Homestead.  
Thank you.

00002 DAVID RUIZ: I am against it, because I feel  
that the pollution that we are going to receive

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3

down here over the Everglades and Biscayne, the  
traffic that we are going to experience. If  
people want jobs, Miami International is always  
hiring.  
We all live here. Everybody comes down here  
to get away from everything. Even the waterpark  
and everything we are proposing, I am against  
it. We don't need stuff like this down here.  
That's pretty much it.  
00003 NANCY LEB: My mother had a trailer in  
Homestead right by the Air Force Base and you  
really weren't aware of the Air Force Base when  
she was there. It wasn't planes flying all the  
time. She died. She would be turning over in  
her grave right now if this Air Force Base went  
in. She loved the bay. She loved the ruralness  
of it out here, and it just seems like this  
airport doesn't fit in.  
I brought this to enter into the report,  
which was written in 1934, about the national  
parks.  
I think the noise pollution has been  
underestimated. I don't think that the buffer  
zones have been addressed. You are depending on  
an honest government and that's not what we have

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4

down here, and that's what you have to realize.  
In fact, I am wearing a thing here, and it  
says "Americans against political corruption," because  
I fight here day and night, thirty hours a week,  
fighting against all this corruption down here, and  
you are leaving it to them to implement?  
They did a no bid deal on the airport which  
in itself is the kind of deals that we get down  
here, and you can't trust Dade County to do the  
right thing. You are doing this wonderful study  
and then you are going to go home and say: Okay,  
Dade County, implement it, and it's not going to  
be done.  
It's already a Hobby-Mas Canosa deal. You  
know, every time we turn around there is some  
corruption and I just think that we should think  
of the environment. We should think about -- I  
was at both national parks a few weeks ago, and  
they are so pristine and beautiful. You are not  
thinking of all the rental car companies and the  
warehouses and the crazy stuff around it.  
Miami never stops. This is a development  
crazed place. You have Opa-Locka Airport that can be  
redone. There has got to be a better place. This is  
not the place for an airport, and I don't think you

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COMMENTS

are really taking the people into account.

You know, a lot of those people say "more jobs." It's really not going to give them more jobs. You know, the jobs whether they have to drive twenty miles for the job or not, you really can't expect the job to be right on your doorstep.

I don't know. I am very saddened by this.

000004 SARA BELLMUND: I am Sarah Bellmund. I am a citizen of Monroe County, Florida. I am here to express my personal opinion on the Air Force Base development. I believe that the Air Force Base is incompatible with the preservation of Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park.

I believe the SEIS does not properly identify the impact to the areas adjacent to the development area. It does not thoroughly investigate the adjacent and secondary impacts resulting from auxiliary development due to the airport. It does not thoroughly analyze potential impacts for evacuation due to danger or due to damage to Turkey Point, which can result from an aircraft strike. It has been incompletely analyzed by FEMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for Evacuation and Safety for both Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant and

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hurricane evacuation.

The development adjacent to the base has been inadequately analyzed for hurricane damage potential, flooding and auxiliary cost to the County and to the State. The contaminants arising from the base have been incompletely characterized and incompletely analyzed, and the risks and dangers from the airport itself and operating facilities have been understated and downplayed in the report. I believe that the base -- the commercial airport has safety requirements for bird strikes and birds adjacent to the runway which make it incompatible with the situation next to Biscayne National Park and the Biscayne National Park designation under the Organic Act of the United States and under the designation of Biscayne National Park and its enacting language.

I believe that the airport space redevelopment and its transfer from Miami Dade County to private developer was conducted in a manner inconsistent with public access and public information, under both Florida law and the Freedom of Information Act. I believe that the hazards posed to the other adjacent environmental areas from airplane noise and from airborne contaminants due to fuel and

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incompletely burned fuel have not been properly outlined or described in the report. This includes the area known as the model lands, the national marine sanctuary, John Pennecamp Park, Coral Reef State Park.

Am I out of time? Sorry about that. Thank you.

000005 BEN GARDNER: My name is Ben Gardner. I am a citizen from Miami. I just want to say that I oppose an airport on this site and I am in favor of a different alternative, preferably a mixed use alternative that has been put forth by the Collier family.

I am very weary as a citizen about the plan for the airport as it has come out. Some of my concerns include noise pollution; as it affects the two national parks, the impact on birds. I am a pilot myself, and I still oppose this airport. I am also concerned about jet fuel in the system, in the area and what I mainly am concerned about is implementation of this plan in terms of how the County has managed Miami Airport and the corruption that has been involved.

As a citizen I don't feel comfortable handing over this incredibly important area of our community to the County to manage. I don't believe a

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lot of the promises that have been made, and the plan leaves so many ambiguities for implementation later on. I think until they are clearly stated up-front, I don't think there is any way that the Air Force can feel comfortable handing this property over without really understanding the full effects of implementation. I think, in fact, they might be held liable for handing over a plan before the implementation is fully explained or detailed.

So I just wanted to make it clear that I oppose the airport being put on this site.

000006 ANA RASCO: My name is Ana Rasco. I live in Pinecrest, Florida. I have three kids that are in college. I've been booking flights to Boston for the last six years, and if I want to assure that my children come home for Thanksgiving or Christmas, I've got to book it in June because American is the only airline that flies direct from Miami to Boston. If they change their schedule -- their school schedule, and I have to rearrange the flights, I am almost guaranteed that I can't get on an American flight. They are overbooked. I end up going to Fort Lauderdale. Delta has the only direct flights available. They are cheaper than the American flights.

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1 I can see that we really need an airport  
 2 badly and this community in Homestead could  
 3 really use it.

4 **000007** ANGELA GONZALEZ: My name is Angela  
 5 Gonzalez. I am a resident of Miami-Dade County. My  
 6 reason for being here tonight is to say I am present  
 7 and I am in support of the Homestead Air Force Base  
 8 Authority for the airport. I am here to say that I am  
 9 very much in favor of the development of a commercial  
 10 airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base, not  
 11 only because it will create thirty-eight thousand jobs  
 12 for the Homestead community, but because it will  
 13 generate over one billion in earnings, with the  
 14 opportunity of new jobs like hotels, restaurants and  
 15 car rental offices, et cetera, for the needy people in  
 16 the community of Homestead and throughout the Dade  
 17 County area.

18 Our community needs a reliever airport and  
 19 my feelings for that, as a Dade County resident and  
 20 being so near to MIA Airport, I feel that it is so  
 21 congested that it would be a very good idea to have a  
 22 commercial airport at the Homestead Air Base.

23 The latest environmental study released by  
 24 the Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration  
 25 confirms that an airport is needed and I am all

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1 for it.

2 I believe that Homestead is the only viable  
 3 site for the airport, that there is no other site  
 4 better to build a commercial airport than the  
 5 Homestead Air Force Base.

6 **000008** THERESA SANTOVENIA: My name is Theresa  
 7 Santovenia. I was born and raised in Miami. I've  
 8 lived here all my life. I am here tonight to urge you  
 9 to redevelop the base as a reliever airport. There is  
 10 no denying the need for it and I personally have  
 11 recently had to drive all the way to Fort Lauderdale  
 12 to get the flights I need and it cost me one hundred  
 13 dollars per person less than having to fly out of  
 14 Miami International Airport.

15 Homestead is the most logical location for  
 16 an airport. As stated in the latest SEIS report, the  
 17 airport will not negatively affect the environment.  
 18 Additionally, I think it will create desperately  
 19 needed jobs and economic assistance for the people of  
 20 the Homestead area and benefit the rest of the County  
 21 as well. It's clearly the best plan and it keeps the  
 22 property in the hands of Dade County and the citizens  
 23 that live here.

24 Thank you.

25 **000009** ROBERT WEINREB: My name is Robert Weinreb.

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1 I am Director of the South Florida Board Sailing  
 2 Association. That's a windsurfing group that has five  
 3 or six hundred members that use Biscayne Bay and the  
 4 Atlantic Ocean and regional waters to windsurf.

5 Learning about the proposed airport and the  
 6 problems that it might cause our sport, I am here to  
 7 ask for an alternative plan. From talking to the  
 8 scientists here today, learning about the pollution  
 9 that might run into the bay and the noise pollution  
 10 with hundreds of flights a day possibly over the areas  
 11 we windsurf, we would request that an airport not  
 12 be -- a commercial airport not be considered for this  
 13 site here. An alternative plan might be more toward  
 14 our liking.

15 I picked up a letter dated February 1, 2000  
 16 from the Department of Interior, and they state they  
 17 believe that the mixed use is preferable to the  
 18 development of a commercial airport, and it seems  
 19 interesting that one government agency is saying one  
 20 thing and another one is saying something else. So we  
 21 would support the U.S. Department of Interior.

22 Also, with those two national parks right  
 23 nearby, and another national park down in Key Largo, there are  
 24 not to mention Crandon Park on Key Biscayne, there are  
 25 a number of parks that would have a negative impact

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1 from so many flights going over them, and it's pretty  
 2 clear that those flights would be taking off and  
 3 landing directly over those parks.

4 With the major Metropolitan area as  
 5 congested as it is already, having this kind of  
 6 added noise and development seems not in the best  
 7 interest of the region for both tourism and  
 8 residents alike.

9 Thank you.

10 **000010** PAUL MARINO: My name is Paul Marino. I am a  
 11 resident of Miami Lakes, Florida. The reason I  
 12 am here is to just give my opinion on what I've  
 13 seen and what I've read. It seems evident that  
 14 Miami International Airport is going to need some  
 15 type of relief system, and from what I've read  
 16 and what I've heard the most logical place to do that  
 17 would probably be in Homestead, given that it already  
 18 has an Air Force Base that was conveyed to the  
 19 military and they are ready to convey it back.

20 The real reason I am here -- the most  
 21 important reason I am here is that I've read within  
 22 this proposal that there is some type of stipulation  
 23 that they may be looking at Opa-Locka Airport as a  
 24 possible alternative. The real reason I am here is to  
 25 voice my strong objections to Opa-Locka.

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COMMENTS

1 One, it is in the middle of a residential  
2 community. It's our community. It's a lovely  
3 community and I hate to see it ruined.

4 Number 2, it just doesn't have the ability  
5 to support a full scale airport. It just doesn't  
6 have those types of facilities.

7 I am vehemently against any proposal that  
8 would make Opa-Locka into a commercial/cargo  
9 airport.

10 That's all I have to say.

11 000011 LAURA LAW: I am Laura Law. I just want to  
12 say that I feel very strongly against the airport in  
13 the Homestead Air Force Base area and I think it's --  
14 I am worried about the increased air traffic, the  
15 threat to the wildlife and the proximity to the  
16 nuclear power plant. I would support any of the other  
17 alternatives other than the airport.

18 000012 ADOLFO HERNANDEZ: I am for the new airport  
19 here. I feel that creating, you know, so many jobs --  
20 thirty-eight thousand is the estimate -- it can do no  
21 harm. It can obviously benefit Dade County and  
22 Homestead.

23 In my case alone, I have done some business  
24 with some new companies in Homestead, and in my small  
25 company we've added two people because of that, so I

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1 can just imagine what something like this would do.

2 Basically, you know, that's where I stand.

3 (Thereupon, the following proceedings were  
4 held at the public meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.)

5 COLONEL McSHANE: Ladies and gentlemen, I  
6 would like to go ahead and start. I want to be  
7 able to start on time.

8 I do have a couple of very brief  
9 administrative announcements before we start. As soon  
10 it quiets down a little bit, I'll begin those.

11 Let me start with an announcement which is  
12 very important to one of you folks out there.  
13 The owner of a blue Honda, your lights are on.

14 Let me cover one or two other matters. No  
15 foods or drinks inside the auditorium tonight, please,  
16 and we request that if you have any, pass it down to  
17 the two center aisles and the policemen will be down  
18 to pick them up from you.

19 One last matter, if you can possibly slide  
20 over or if you have an empty seat next to you, would  
21 you raise your hand so that folks who are standing  
22 against the wall there can come and have a seat. It  
23 might be a fire regulation that precludes you from  
24 standing against the wall. Please find a seat. There  
25 are a number here.

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1 One other announcement, and that is that  
2 apparently there are going to be bells ringing  
3 for the night classes at 7:45 and eight o'clock  
4 and 9:15. If you folks are speaking, I will ask you  
5 to pause and let the bell finish ringing and then  
6 we'll deduct the time off your allotted three  
7 minutes.

8 We still have some more seats available. We  
9 are going to start.

10 Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome  
11 to this Public Hearing of the Draft Supplemental  
12 Environmental Impact Statement on the Disposal of  
13 Portions of the Former Homestead Air Force Base.

14 I am Colonel Mike McShane and I am the Chief  
15 Trial Judge of the Air Force, stationed at  
16 Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, DC. My  
17 normal duties include presiding over Air Force  
18 courts-martial. But today, I have been made  
19 available to preside over this series of five  
20 hearings which are being held in this area concerning  
21 the disposal and subsequent reuse of the former  
22 Homestead Air Force Base property.

23 I have not been involved in the development  
24 of any of the proposals that are being considered  
25 here tonight, so you understand that. I am just

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1 running a fair and impartial hearing.

2 I want to thank you for taking the time from  
3 your busy schedules to come here tonight for this  
4 public hearing. If you were interested, I hope  
5 you took time to visit with the technical staff  
6 prior to this portion of the hearing to have your  
7 questions answered.

8 In preparing this Draft Supplemental  
9 Environmental Impact Statement, or Draft SEIS, as  
10 you'll hear us calling it, it was the Air Force's  
11 goal to understand the environmental implications  
12 of deciding for what purpose and to whom to  
13 convey surplus property at former Homestead Air  
14 Force Base. The Draft SEIS examines reasonable ways  
15 in which the property might be developed, used and the  
16 reasonably foreseeable environmental consequences of  
17 the alternatives.

18 At this time I would like to introduce Major  
19 Mike Chipley of the Air Force Executive Issues Team.  
20 He's an engineer by trade, with a Ph.D. in civil  
21 engineering from the University of Colorado. Major  
22 Chipley will discuss the proposed action and  
23 alternatives, and provide a short synopsis of the  
24 reuse issues.

25 Since the overall purpose of the hearings is

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1 to obtain input from you on the contents of the  
 2 Draft SEIS, the presentation will be short.  
 3 Major Chipley.  
 4 MAJOR CHIPLEY: Thank you, Colonel.  
 5 I too would like to extend my thanks to all  
 6 of you for taking time to provide your comments  
 7 on the Draft SEIS.  
 8 For the past several years we have been  
 9 engaged in the process of completing the  
 10 realignment and reuse of the former Homestead Air  
 11 Force Base as required by the Defense Base  
 12 Closure and Realignment Act.  
 13 The Air Force's primary goal in this process  
 14 is to transfer the properties in manner that  
 15 supports the local plans for economic  
 16 revitalization of South Florida and protects Biscayne  
 17 Bay and nearby Everglades National Parks. A disposal  
 18 must also be compatible with continuing the existing  
 19 military and law enforcement missions.  
 20 The Air Force and Federal Aviation  
 21 Administration, or FAA, are the designated Lead  
 22 Agencies for the Draft SEIS.  
 23 The Air Force has decision-making  
 24 responsibilities for the transfer of the  
 25 property.

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1 The FAA has decision-making responsibilities  
 2 for airport facilities.  
 3 There are three cooperating agencies. One  
 4 cooperating agency is the National Park Service,  
 5 because it manages Biscayne National Park, and  
 6 Everglades National Park.  
 7 Another cooperating agency is the U.S. Fish  
 8 and Wildlife Service because it has the  
 9 responsibilities to ensure threatened and endangered  
 10 species are adequately considered and because of the  
 11 proximity of Crocodile Lake National Wildlife  
 12 Refuge.  
 13 The third cooperating agency is the U.S.  
 14 Environmental Protection Agency because of its  
 15 regulatory responsibilities.  
 16 The contractor hired by the Air Force to  
 17 actually conduct the analysis is Science Applications  
 18 International Corporation, or SAIC for short. They  
 19 have been supported by another contractor, Landrum and  
 20 Brown, which performed airport planning and noise  
 21 analysis.  
 22 I would like to take a couple of minutes to  
 23 update you on the SEIS process and what has occurred  
 24 since the scoping period ended in July of 1998. More  
 25 than four hundred forty individuals, organizations and

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1 agencies provided written input during our one hundred  
 2 thirty-two day scoping period, and one hundred  
 3 ninety-five people spoke at our public scoping  
 4 meetings. The size and complexity of the Draft SEIS  
 5 has grown substantially because of the number and  
 6 diverse nature of issues and many federal agencies,  
 7 state and local governments, private organizations and  
 8 concerned citizens involved. Midway through the  
 9 analysis, two mixed use proposals were received which  
 10 were incorporated into the analysis.  
 11 We recognize this has been a long process  
 12 for everyone. We want you to know many other  
 13 communities have also struggled through the base  
 14 closure process. Some former bases have been  
 15 developed for aviation uses, others for non-aviation  
 16 uses. The success of redevelopment depends upon the  
 17 local community's involvement and support.  
 18 The Draft SEIS examines a number of reuse  
 19 alternatives for remaining surplus property at  
 20 the former base. Ongoing reuse involving  
 21 property that has already been transferred, like  
 22 the Job Corps Center, the Dade County Homeless  
 23 Trust, the regional park, and the other deeded  
 24 properties, would continue under any of the  
 25 alternatives.

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1 The alternatives underwent thorough and  
 2 complex analysis of the environmental and  
 3 economic impacts that could potentially occur as  
 4 a result of redevelopment. Fourteen topics were used  
 5 as the basis for the analysis. Public and agency  
 6 concerns that were expressed at our scoping meetings  
 7 identified important issues and helped focus our  
 8 analysis. Those concerns have been incorporated  
 9 throughout the Draft SEIS.  
 10 When the reuse planning process was  
 11 initiated for Homestead Air Force Base,  
 12 Miami-Dade County was designated as the Local  
 13 Reuse Authority to develop a reuse plan for the  
 14 former base.  
 15 The County has proposed that the one  
 16 thousand six hundred and thirty-two acres of  
 17 remaining surplus property at former Homestead  
 18 Air Force Base be transferred to Miami-Dade  
 19 County Aviation Department for development of a  
 20 commercial airport.  
 21 This is the Proposed Action addressed in the  
 22 Draft SEIS. The analysis of the Proposed Action  
 23 included identifying and assessing new flight  
 24 tracks that would be used at the commercial  
 25 airport.

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COMMENTS

1 Airport operations, in general, are
2 characteristically different than commercial or
3 residential land uses in the types and numbers of
4 vehicles, equipment and people, and the resulting
5 impacts to the environment. The main issues of
6 the proposed action involves air pollution,
7 stormwater runoff and noise levels.

8 Another alternative examined in the Draft
9 SEIS is a Commercial Spaceport. The main issues with
10 the commercial spaceport alternative involve the
11 uncertainties related to the licensing process, safety
12 and potential increase in noise.

13 Three approaches were examined for
14 non-aviation uses, presented as the Mixed Use
15 alternative.

16 Market driven development, the Collier
17 Resources Company proposal and the Hoover
18 Environmental Group plan.

19 The Mixed Use alternatives could create a
20 higher intensity of use in a shorter period of
21 time, but may have less environmental effects on
22 the national parks.

23 The Draft SEIS also includes the No Action
24 alternative, which means the property continues to
25 belong to the government and reverts to caretaker

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1 status. Under each alternative, the Air Force,
2 Florida Air National Guard and Customs Service
3 continue to use the runway for their current military
4 and law enforcement missions.

5 The Draft SEIS addresses each alternative in
6 the context of future growth in South Florida and also
7 takes into account potential cumulative impacts of
8 other projects. It also includes some historical
9 information where available.

10 Your views and comments on the Draft SEIS
11 will be important as we work toward completing the
12 Final SEIS. We are now about half way through the
13 sixty day public comment period. We scheduled these
14 hearings to provide you an opportunity to review the
15 Draft SEIS and formulate comments you can give here
16 today, and also to provide you some time after these
17 hearings so you can incorporate things you might learn
18 tonight into your written comments. Whether you
19 choose to come today or provide your comments in
20 writing between now and March 7, we look forward to
21 receiving your inputs in assisting us in completing
22 the final document.

23 The Final SEIS, scheduled for completion in
24 July 2000, will include comments made at the
25 public hearings or submitted in writing during

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1 the public comment period for the Draft SEIS,
2 along with Air Force and FAA responses to your
3 comments.

4 A decision on what action will be taken
5 concerning the transfer of the disposal properly
6 will be made no earlier than thirty days after
7 the publication of the Final SEIS.

8 We will continue to distribute news releases
9 and send news letter to those on our mailing list
10 throughout the final course of the SEIS process.
11 Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list
12 should complete an attendance card located at the
13 registration table and check the appropriate box
14 on the card.

15 In summary, I'd like to say that we do
16 understand that this is a complicated and often
17 frustrating process. Let me reiterate that
18 neither the Air Force nor FAA proposes to
19 directly develop the surplus property.

20 The Air Force's goal is to transfer the land
21 in a manner that supports local plans for economic
22 revitalization and protects Biscayne Bay and the
23 nearby national parks.

24 A disposal must also be compatible with
25 continuing the existing military and law

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1 enforcement missions.

2 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you, Major Chipley.
3 This concludes the Air Force's presentation. In
4 a few minutes we'll begin the public comment
5 portion of this hearing. You will have several
6 ways to provide your comments.

7 If you brought written comments, please
8 place them in the box on the comment table. You
9 can leave them on the table up-front here as
10 well.

11 If you want to write down your comments
12 while you are here, there are forms at the
13 comment table out in the lobby.

14 You can also take a form home to complete
15 and then mail it back to the address provided on
16 the comment form.

17 You can also write your comments on your own
18 form and mail them in. You do not need to use
19 the comment forms. They are only for your
20 convenience.

21 You will have the opportunity to provide
22 oral comments when I begin the public comment
23 portion of the hearing.

24 Let me tell you a few things about the
25 public comment period. We will hear from elected

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1 officials. First we are mindful of their time  
 2 constraints and schedule. We'll call them first.  
 3 Then each of the proponents of the alternatives were  
 4 offered an opportunity to describe their proposal and  
 5 speak about it.  
 6 Miami-Dade County expressed an interest in  
 7 speaking. We'll hear from representatives of  
 8 Miami-Dade County. They will be given up to ten  
 9 minutes to speak about their proposals.  
 10 You may also notice that some of the other  
 11 proponents, although they've elected not to give  
 12 a presentation, have materials available at the  
 13 tables and poster boards around the room.  
 14 After the County's presentation we'll hear  
 15 from those of you who have submitted cards indicating  
 16 that you wish to speak. We will call you in the order  
 17 the cards were submitted.  
 18 Anyone who has not yet filled out a card,  
 19 and who wants to speak, will be given an  
 20 opportunity to do so after all the registered  
 21 speakers have made their comments.  
 22 Let me add that if you desire to speak  
 23 tonight, each individual or organization will  
 24 have three minutes to provide comments.  
 25 Please clearly state your name and the name

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1 of the organization if any you are representing before  
 2 you begin your comments, so that the court reporter  
 3 can get that down. The transcript will be a permanent  
 4 record of this hearing and will be published in the  
 5 final SEIS. Please, do not provide any personal  
 6 information in your comments if you do not want to see  
 7 it published in the final SEIS.  
 8 It's very important that you use the  
 9 microphones on either sides of the room here so that  
 10 the court reporter can hear you. The focus is to  
 11 listen to your comments regarding the contents of the  
 12 Draft SEIS. Proceeding this presentation you will  
 13 have an opportunity to ask questions one-on-one of the  
 14 technical staff and hopefully your question will be  
 15 answered. Any further questions in the course of  
 16 making your statements will be addressed in the final  
 17 SEIS rather than answering them tonight.  
 18 Again, please focus your comments on the  
 19 Draft SEIS and the analysis of the options.  
 20 If you need to have your comments translated  
 21 into English and did not indicate that when you  
 22 signed in, please let us know when I call on  
 23 you.  
 24 If you do make comments tonight and later  
 25 decide you have additional comments or know

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1 someone who is interested in the comment process  
 2 but cannot attend any of the meetings, written  
 3 comments can be submitted until March 7, 2000.  
 4 Mailing address may be found in all of the  
 5 available handouts.  
 6 At this point I am going to call on the  
 7 elected public officials who have indicated they  
 8 desire to speak tonight, starting with Mayor Alexander  
 9 Penelas.  
 10 **000013** MAYOR ALEXANDER PENELAS: Members of the  
 11 hearing panel, ladies and gentlemen, good  
 12 evening. I am Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade  
 13 County. I want to welcome each of and every one  
 14 of you to South Miami-Dade. Respecting each  
 15 speaker's time limitations, I would ask that you  
 16 put yourself for just a moment in the shoes of the  
 17 citizens of Miami-Dade County, who since the 1960s,  
 18 have tried unsuccessfully to site a reliever facility  
 19 for Miami International Airport.  
 20 Consequently, ladies and gentlemen, the  
 21 issues that are at stake here are very, very serious  
 22 and the results are irreversible, if this community is  
 23 prevented from appropriately developing an airport at  
 24 the former Homestead Air Force Base.  
 25 In your hands rests a critical decision that

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1 we all agree will have implications for decades  
 2 to come, and will decide the impact of quality of  
 3 life and the economic stability of Miami-Dade County,  
 4 as a whole, and it's local communities. You'll hear  
 5 from many of those local representatives in a few  
 6 moments.  
 7 Throughout the course of these hearings, I  
 8 would ask you also to remember that both the President  
 9 and the Congress made a commitment to this  
 10 community -- a strong commitment -- which was clearly  
 11 articulated on July 8, 1993, when then Defense  
 12 Secretary Perry announced that Homestead Air Force  
 13 Base would become a national showcase of ways to  
 14 breath new life into military facilities.  
 15 Sadly, sadly, Miami-Dade County has been  
 16 everything but a showcase on this issue. I would  
 17 further ask you to remember that the land which now  
 18 holds the former Homestead Air Force Base was owned by  
 19 Miami-Dade County until 1942, when it was taken by the  
 20 federal government to meet national security needs.  
 21 Aside from attaining a period of normalcy in  
 22 the mid '40s, after yet another major hurricane,  
 23 the base served critical national defense needs,  
 24 including playing a critical role during the  
 25 Cuban Missile Crisis.

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COMMENTS

1 Ladies and gentlemen, the federal process to
2 determine the final disposition of the base has been
3 unprecedented -- unprecedented in both length and
4 cost. For the past seven years the Homestead area
5 community and the communities around Homestead have
6 been playing by the rules, and letting the process
7 take its course. Our disappointment has been
8 overwhelming as we find that the rules and the
9 parameters for decision-making are ever changing, and
10 study after study have brought us to the same
11 conclusion.

12 A Final Environmental Impact Statement in
13 1994, a sensitivity analysis in 1998 and a
14 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
15 released just seven weeks ago have all concluded
16 that a public airport was an appropriate and
17 environmentally safe use for the former Homestead
18 Air Force Base.

19 In fact, it is important to note that in
20 1994, in its response, the FEIS, even the
21 Department of Interior, suggested exploring
22 Homestead as an alternative.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, I simply cannot
24 over-emphasize the importance of this base
25 property in meeting this community's future

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1 needs. Miami International Airport is the only
2 commercial service airport in all of Miami-Dade
3 County. Even with the current addition of a
4 fourth runway, MIA will fall short of the demand
5 for commercial service capacity sometime between the
6 years 2006 and 2015. This point was clearly confirmed
7 in the recent supplemental study.

8 As we all know, aviation facilities do not
9 materialize overnight. They take years in their
10 development.

11 In respect to your time limitations, I will
12 hope that you consider Miami-Dade County's request.
13 We have made commitments to comply with every
14 available mitigation project. This airport will
15 provide far more good jobs than any of the alternative
16 uses, thirty-eight thousand jobs at full build out,
17 and over a billion dollars in earnings as
18 substantiated by the study.

19 The supplemental study itself indicates that
20 the Opa-Locka Airport simply is not an
21 appropriate alternative. So I would hope that
22 you would take all this into consideration.

23 Thank you very much for having me.
24 COLONEL McSHANE: Folks, if we are going to
25 hear your comments, we don't need demonstrations

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1 or clapping for any of the dignitaries who are
2 here either for or against, please. That's
3 wasting your time.

4 We'll move on to the next speaker, Mayor
5 Steve Shiver, from Homestead.

6 000014 MAYOR STEVE SHIVER: I have written comments
7 that I will submit. I've been a little under the
8 weather, and I apologize.

9 First of all, I want to thank everybody for
10 coming together in an adult-like manner to
11 discuss an issue. It is very important that we
12 make an attempt and we are able to discuss the
13 issue in an adult-like manner, not necessarily
14 continuing to make ourselves look like children,
15 quite honestly.

16 I am glad we are all here as adults and
17 working hard --

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Sir, no more comments or
19 we'll ask that you be escorted out.

20 MAYOR STEVE SHIVER: I would ask that you add
21 some more time for that comment.

22 I am too a native of Homestead, born right
23 here in Homestead thirty-three years ago. I am
24 very proud of what I've been able to do here as a
25 child growing up enjoying our environment and

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1 working hard to make sure that our surroundings
2 are protected.

3 Some of our farmers in our community have
4 been working the land for many years. I want to set
5 the stage by saying that everybody in this community
6 works very hard to make sure that our natural
7 resources come to provide enjoyment for our children
8 and their children.

9 But more importantly, in 1993 we began
10 studding what to do with this airport. In 1994 our
11 record decision was given, and in 1996 a decision to
12 start an airport and the plan was developed by
13 Miami-Dade County, submitted back to the Air Force.

14 At that time, the environmental
15 organizations came forward and said the original
16 impact statement was not appropriate, we should
17 study it again. So we did.

18 We went into a sensitivity analysis as Study
19 Number 3. After we finished the sensitivity analysis,
20 we went into Study Number 4, which is the current
21 SEIS, and that's why we are here today, to talk about
22 that.

23 Once again we find ourselves being faced
24 with those who say that the study that was mandated
25 and initiated primarily by environmental organizations

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1 was not appropriate.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, the people of our  
3 community, the people that we represent, the  
4 people that eat, work and live here are tired of  
5 studies. It is time for us to move forward and  
6 look at an asset that we really need to create  
7 jobs in the community.

8 I am going to end by saying that the facts  
9 are clear. Miami-Dade County in the last thirty  
10 years has looked for an alternative site for an  
11 airport. With the addition of the fourth runway at  
12 Miami International Airport, we are going to have a  
13 capacity problem. This is a long term planning  
14 problem.

15 Every study completed regarding this  
16 property over the past seven years has indicated  
17 that Homestead Air Force Base is the most logical  
18 and reasonable place to site a reliever airport,  
19 and quite frankly, most importantly, my community  
20 needs meaningful jobs.

21 Those that have been studying the  
22 alternatives say that they will still be subjected to  
23 more years of environmental studies and uncertain  
24 risks.

25 As an elected official, we are charged with

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1 making an informed decision. I would ask everybody in  
2 the room, and you as well, to rely upon the four  
3 studies and over five million dollars of tax payers'  
4 monies of our community that have been paid to analyze  
5 this issue. Rely upon that. All of them say we need  
6 an airport. Homestead is the place to do at this time  
7 a limited use airport.

8 The City of Homestead has passed a unanimous  
9 resolution in support of this, and remember, the thing  
10 is to make sure that we keep the activity of economics  
11 here in Homestead. Keep the activity here in Dade  
12 County and not Broward.

13 Thank you very much.

14 COLONEL McSHANE: Next is Otis Wallace from  
15 Florida City.

16 00015 MAYOR OTIS WALLACE: I'd like to first of all  
17 thank the hearing committee for giving us this  
18 opportunity to be heard. I'd like to thank the  
19 Department of the Air Force for making this  
20 Supplemental Environmental Impact Study.

21 During this type of study, I got a little  
22 study on my own regarding the environmental  
23 condition in South Dade. Without trying at all,  
24 I quickly discovered an endangered species. It  
25 has two eyes, two arms, two legs, a brain and a

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1 heartbeat. It has dignity and an overwhelming  
2 desire to support its family.

3 But unlike most endangered species in our  
4 midst, there is no Sierra Club to protect a working  
5 man who simply wants to support his family. There is  
6 no club or society for someone who just wants nothing  
7 more than to feed, house and educate his kids.

8 Since there are no clubs to speak for them,  
9 it falls upon me and my compatriots to speak for  
10 the people of Florida City that have not been  
11 spoken for in the past.

12 Jobs are the most important thing to the  
13 people of South Dade. We need them to support  
14 our families. I just have to believe that God  
15 made men and women to be a part of nature, and  
16 the simple fact is that of the plans submitted  
17 to you, there are two that have merits, but I  
18 must favor the airport, because of the  
19 overwhelming number of jobs it will produce.

20 To those who are fat and happy and rich, and  
21 have homes of their own, perhaps jobs are not  
22 important, but for the people that struggle to  
23 support their family, it's the number one issue.

24 So I say to you, there is an endangered  
25 species in South Dade. It's the unemployed men

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1 and women of our community. Somebody must stand  
2 up for them. Somebody must begin to talk about  
3 them.

4 Let's protect the sparrow, let's protect the  
5 key deer, but let's also protect the people.  
6 What God has set upon this earth, let no man  
7 disregard. Think about this when you make your  
8 environmental analysis.

9 Thank you.

10 COLONEL McSHANE: Mayor Raul Martinez from  
11 Hialeah.

12 Folks, please, quiet down.

13 00016 MAYOR RAUL MARTINEZ: I love you too.

14 Members of the community of Homestead,  
15 first of all I want to thank Mayor Steve Shiver  
16 for inviting me. This is not about a particular  
17 city. This is not about Hialeah or Homestead or  
18 Hispanics or Blacks or anybody else. I think  
19 this has to do with the promise that was made to  
20 the people of Homestead back in 1992 when they  
21 were suffering from the Hurricane. This has to  
22 do with the fact that the base was going to be  
23 closed, and it is a fact that we need to find  
24 employment for our people.

25 I live about five or six blocks away from

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COMMENTS

1 Opa-Locka Airport. I see the planes flying into  
2 the City of Miami and Miami International  
3 Airport, and we have to find a compromise. We  
4 have to find a compromise where we can create and  
5 protect the employment of our Dade County  
6 residents and meet the needs of the environment.

7 I am sure that those of you that know more  
8 than I do, because I have to believe the mayor of  
9 a small city, you can find a way and you can find  
10 a solution to continue to protect the  
11 environment, but to create the jobs that this  
12 community so badly needs.

13 We need jobs, and this space with the new  
14 airport can bring vitality back to not only South  
15 Dade, but also to South Florida, because no matter  
16 whether you like it or not, flights are going to  
17 continue to come to Dade County and they are going to  
18 go to Opa-Locka and they are going to go to  
19 Miami-Dade. We are still going to have the planes  
20 flying. Why not benefit from a strip that's already  
21 there, from the infrastructure that's already there?  
22 We can find a compromise.

23 There was a resolution that was passed by my  
24 city counsel, one that basically says we support  
25 the creation of jobs. Let's protect the

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1 environment, but let's also protect the people  
2 that will protect the environment.

3 Thank you very much.

4 COLONEL McSHANE: Next I will call Mayor Jose  
5 Diaz from Sweetwater.

6 000017 MAYOR JOSE DIAZ: Welcome Committee, and all  
7 the people here. This is not an easy thing to do, to  
8 get up in front of you, when there are two different  
9 topics as strong as these to decide among a community,  
10 to determine the needs for ones and the needs for  
11 others.

12 As to Mayor Shiver, it takes a lot of guts  
13 to initiate this. He stated a point that that brings  
14 a benefit to all of us here. That benefit is  
15 reflected upon one main issue, and that is getting  
16 jobs to the community. Thirty-eight thousand jobs pay  
17 one billion dollars in earnings. There are a lot of  
18 communities across the nation that wish something like  
19 this could be put in their laps.

20 I saw a lot of youth as I walked into this  
21 building. I commend the teachers, because this is a  
22 democratic society, and we teach freedom of speech,  
23 and I am proud of that, but it's hard when they  
24 graduate and they go out to the market -- those that  
25 have to work and go to college at the same time -- and

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1 try to find a job.

2 My community and other cities, we are having  
3 trouble trying to get youth into the proper jobs. Let  
4 me tell you something, it's hard to bring this down  
5 and say: Hey, this airport didn't come in here, but at  
6 the same time the environment is still safe. If it  
7 doesn't come, what are you going to say to those  
8 students when they graduate and there are no jobs in  
9 the community? They have to go elsewhere.

10 The other issue is the environment, that we  
11 all respect and love. I want my children to take  
12 advantage of the Everglades and their children too.  
13 That's what I stand for.

14 The studies and millions of dollars have  
15 been spent by the government to determine that both  
16 can co-exist. We have to take that into  
17 consideration, because that's a very important point.  
18 I know there are two sides to every point, but we have  
19 to find a blend and find a way to work together and  
20 find a solution for this.

21 I think if we look at it real hard, this  
22 would benefit all our community to have this  
23 commercial airport in Homestead.

24 Thank you very much.

25 COLONEL McSHANE: Next I call on Mayor

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1 Ignacio Diaz of North Bay Village.

2 I don't see him responding. I'll go on.

3 Mayor Rasco, Key Biscayne.

4 000018 MAYOR JOSE IGNACIO RASCO: Distinguished  
5 members of the panel, members of the public. I am the  
6 Mayor of Key Biscayne. The comments I make here  
7 tonight should not be construed to represented the  
8 sentiments of the ten thousand people of my community,  
9 but I am here to support my fellow mayors, especially  
10 Otis Wallace, Steve Shiver and Alex Penelas, and their  
11 efforts over many years to bring back their respected  
12 cities in this area. They've worked tirelessly in  
13 this capacity.

14 I am here to say that I support their  
15 efforts for a better tomorrow for all the residents of  
16 South Dade, to support economic development in  
17 Miami-Dade County that is crucial and respects the  
18 environment.

19 The South Dade area has a large unemployment  
20 problem, a deep health care crisis, a need for high  
21 paying jobs that will meet the needs of tomorrow.  
22 This is the reason why this area was named an  
23 environmental empowerment zone by the federal  
24 government. There is a need, and we can solve it. We  
25 can do that without harming our present environment.

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1 At present there are no guidelines to  
2 protect these valuable natural resources. Under the  
3 present system there are no ways to protect our bay.  
4 Under the proposed system, the County, under the  
5 jurisdiction of the State of Florida, we will have  
6 force and mechanisms and potential mitigation plans in  
7 place. They are not now present.

8 The time to act is now. We need to help our  
9 neighbors in the south. We need to help them for a  
10 better tomorrow. I support Mayor Shiver and I support  
11 Mayor Wallace and the residents of Dade County in this  
12 effort.

13 Thank you very much.

14 COLONEL McSHANE: Miami-Dade County

15 Commissioner Natacha Millan.

16 000019 COMMISSIONER NATACHA MILLAN: Good evening.

17 Is this working?

18 Good evening and welcome to our county. My  
19 name is Natacha Millan and I represent District 13,  
20 which includes Hialeah and Miami Lakes.

21 I am a proud resident of my city, but I have  
22 great concerns for anybody that lives in South Dade  
23 County, and I have responsibilities as a commissioner  
24 on issues that cover the whole County. That's why I  
25 am here.

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FORT LAUDERDALE

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BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
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1 This is my fourth time in this area. I will  
2 come as many times as necessary. Every time there has  
3 been an issue of people who forget what good manners  
4 and appropriate respect is, and every time I've walked  
5 away with good feelings that those who know how to  
6 respect, whether they agree with me or not, there is a  
7 certain thing as good manners.

8 I tell you, sir, that this area needs a  
9 reliever airport. I will tell you that our airport is  
10 full almost to capacity and will be in the year 2006.  
11 I will also tell you that the need for this community,  
12 with a fifteen percent unemployment, with a hospital  
13 that is just about to close, and with businesses that  
14 deserve a better life. There is a great need.

15 The first thing we must say, and I think  
16 Mayor Wallace was very clear, is that endangered  
17 species -- I never thought of it that way -- was human  
18 beings also.

19 I come from an island. I come from Cuba. I  
20 am very proud to be from Cuba, and we are surrounded  
21 by water and we were surrounded by animals and we are  
22 surrounded by beautiful places, but we need to take  
23 care of the human beings first. Quality of water is  
24 very important, but human beings come before  
25 everything.

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1 I will tell you in all honesty that I would  
2 not be here if I did not see in the SEIS that there  
3 was some test and balance that you requested or you  
4 suggested that would make the base viable but at the  
5 same time protected.

6 There is no good need to destroy the  
7 beautiful things that God gave us. I don't want  
8 children destroyed. I don't want to see a high volume  
9 of women walking the streets because for whatever  
10 reason they don't have a job. I also do not listen to  
11 the voices of those that don't know what they are  
12 saying. I listen to the voice of my conscious.  
13 That's why I am here.

14 Federal Express thank God did not leave the  
15 County, but Federal Express has provided seven hundred  
16 jobs.

17 Thank you.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Let me remind everyone that  
19 if you want to speak, your opportunity is to fill out  
20 a card and come up here when it's your turn. Please  
21 respect the other speakers as you would hopefully  
22 respect yourselves. Thank you.

23 Now I call on Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
24 Bruno Marrero. There is a letter that he would like  
25 to be read. Does somebody else have his letter? He's

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1 not here. If not we'll move on and he can mail his  
2 comments like everybody else.

3 Next I call on Wayne Slaton.

4 000020 WAYNE SLATON: Good evening. Welcome Air  
5 Force. My name is Wayne Slaton. I am the chair for  
6 the past three years of Community Council 6. For  
7 those of you who do not know, Council 6 is the Greater  
8 Miami Lakes area.

9 I also want to admit tonight, and proudly  
10 admit, that I am a card carrying member of the  
11 Tropical Audobon Society. I am also a member of the  
12 Sierra Club and the National Federation of Wildlife.  
13 I receive from these letters information, from all  
14 these organization, and I respect and endorse many of  
15 the fine work that some of these organizations do.

16 I always hope there is room for all points  
17 of views in all these discussions. With that I will  
18 say in the last few weeks I have also reviewed studies  
19 that have been made by the Air Force, and I have to  
20 say that I am seeing that for me there is no real  
21 overriding threat to the surrounding environment and  
22 the community, by the proposal of the federal  
23 government, wishing for a commuter airport.

24 I am concern that you understand the  
25 unharmed need for the base redevelopment into a

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COMMENTS

1 commercial airport. South Dade needs a real and  
2 viable economic development. Dade County needs a real  
3 and viable airport expansion. It is very important,  
4 and must be taken into consideration for the future  
5 demands on all of South Florida, specifically on the  
6 possibility of using Opa-Locka for a needed airport  
7 expansion.

8 The City recognizes that there are sixteen  
9 thousand residential communities living directly  
10 across the street from Opa-Locka. Opa-Locka, we  
11 already knows is not a viable answer. There are three  
12 problems with Opa-Locka that are in your study. The  
13 Opa-Locka runways do not have the capacity that the  
14 Homestead Air Force Base can provide. There are  
15 serious air space constraints, because Opa-Locka is so  
16 close to Fort Lauderdale and MIA, right in the middle,  
17 it would cause a significant number of airplanes  
18 crossing, and finally again the fact that the  
19 residential development is directly in front of  
20 Opa-Locka Airport.

21 I for one cannot equate the safety and the  
22 quality of life of sixteen thousand residents, seven  
23 churches and five schools, to the unsubstantiated  
24 concerns over sawgrass and wildlife.

25 I am concerned for the environment, but to

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1 me human life is more precious.

2 I urge you on behalf of the community that I  
3 represent to bring the study to finalization and  
4 hopefully you will conclude that the Air Force Base  
5 should be turned over to Dade County.

6 Thank you.

7 COLONEL McSHANE: Next will be Miami-Dade  
8 County Commissioner Katy Sorenson.

9 000021 COMMISSIONER KATY SORENSON: Good evening  
10 members of the Air Force and FAA, elected officials,  
11 citizens of Miami-Dade County.

12 We have an opportunity tonight, and in the  
13 process, to close an unfortunate chapter of South  
14 Miami-Dade County's history and begin to create a  
15 bright new future of economic development, prosperity  
16 and the best protection for our environment and our  
17 national parks.

18 In addition to speaking here tonight, we can  
19 ask President Clinton to approve the Collier Family's  
20 proposed swap land in the former Homestead Air Force  
21 Base.

22 Let me finish please. I encourage everyone  
23 to be polite.

24 In 1995 Miami-Dade County granted a no-bid  
25 long term lease to HABDI, a group of developers. I,

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1 as one of the commissioners of South Miami-Dade,  
2 opposed this vigorously. However, it is a new day.

3 The Collier and Hoover families have  
4 collaborated to develop a first class golf course,  
5 business park, hotel, aquarium, marine institute,  
6 luxury RV community, a mixed use --

7 COLONEL McSHANE: Sir, please, take it  
8 outside.

9 COMMISSIONER KATY SORENSON: A mixed use  
10 alternative. The plan will create more than  
11 sixty-eight hundred jobs initially and more than  
12 twenty thousand eventually, more than replacing the  
13 jobs lost after Hurricane Andrew.

14 The Collier/Hoover plan offers many  
15 advances. The first is compatibility with South  
16 Miami-Dade's goals of 1994, redeveloping the base,  
17 sustaining agriculture and expanding tourism.

18 In contrast, an airport threatens  
19 agriculture, by paving the way for industrialization  
20 that will devour available farm land and threaten  
21 Biscayne National Park. Imagine what it would do to  
22 the quality of our neighborhoods and residential  
23 property values.

24 Second, the Collier/Hoover plan takes the  
25 politics out of Miami-Dade County. Under the Collier

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1 plan the County will have no claim to the land. It  
2 further makes the land taxable property for the  
3 County.

4 Moreover, the real choice is not between the  
5 Collier/Hoover plan and the airport, the choice is  
6 between green plants or a red light. That's because  
7 the environmental community is prepared to wage a long  
8 legal battle to stop an airport. That means that the  
9 former air base can grow weeds and cobwebs, not jobs,  
10 for at least a decade, and who is going to invest in  
11 the legal fees to fight this war, the tax payers of  
12 Miami-Dade County?

13 Even if the airport attains approval, after  
14 years of litigation, we will have to pay for buffer  
15 environmental mitigation. Yes, the tax payers of  
16 Miami-Dade County will have to pay for that.

17 Finally, there is no evidence that any  
18 airline will ever be willing to invest in an airport  
19 twenty-five miles away from the main airport.

20 Given the proximity to MIA, Opa-Locka is  
21 better situated to serve as a reliever airport, and  
22 that was pointed out by a County study in 1995. We  
23 are getting an additional runway in MIA and an  
24 addition runway in Fort Lauderdale. How many runways  
25 do we need?

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1 It has been a long wait for the citizens of  
2 South Miami-Dade to enjoy the economic prosperity they  
3 have never felt.

4 Now, the Collier/Hoover plan for the  
5 redevelopment of the base makes economic sense,  
6 environmental sense and can happen faster than any  
7 other option. We can only hope that the White House,  
8 the Air Force, FAA and powers that be will see the  
9 logic and give the land quickly to the Collier family,  
10 so the people of South Miami-Dade can get on with  
11 their future, one that's right for everyone.

12 Thank you.

13 COLONEL McSHANE: Commissioner Dennis Moss.

14 000022 COMMISSIONER DENNIS MOSS: Good evening and  
15 welcome. First of all, I want to say that Homestead  
16 Air Force Base is physically located in District 9.  
17 It is three and a half miles from Goulds, next to the  
18 Landings, across the street from Harper Square and  
19 down the road from Naranja and four miles from the  
20 City of Homestead, Unincorporated Miami-Dade County.

21 In the past, as an elected official in the  
22 district that the base is located in, I have taken to  
23 oppose any development on the base until issues raised  
24 by friends in the environmental community were  
25 addressed by the SEIS.

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1 As a result, I have intentionally chosen not  
2 to publicly authenticate on a manner that we might  
3 realize later on would not be resolved if at all until  
4 after the SEIS was completed. This brings us to this  
5 point tonight.

6 The SEIS has been released, and public  
7 comment has began. What I have heard in District 9 is  
8 that we need jobs, good jobs. What I have heard from  
9 our staff is that we need an airport and there is no  
10 other place to develop one. What I have heard from  
11 the environmental community is that an airport would  
12 destroy our national parks, but we are not ready to  
13 endorse upon the Collier alternative.

14 What we have heard from the SEIS is that  
15 while it impacts the environmental, those impacts can  
16 be mitigated and would allow commercial growth to  
17 commence. What I have heard from the people from  
18 District 9 is that we need jobs, good jobs.

19 While the alternatives are offering jobs,  
20 they are predicated on our location, and therefore we  
21 have not chosen their opportunity for development of  
22 the theme park and all the activities in South Dade,  
23 and the same cannot be said about a reliever airport  
24 anywhere else in Miami-Dade County.

25 I feel that the environmental impacts can be

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1 to a degree possibly mitigated so as to not destroy  
2 our national parks. It would be hard to ignore the  
3 jobs that can be produced, the high paying jobs that  
4 would be available, the fact that a reliever airport,  
5 which is viable to the entire community, not just  
6 South Miami-Dade County, cannot be developed in any  
7 other location other than the base.

8 Finally, I want to applaud everyone who came  
9 out tonight. You have allowed us to know where you  
10 are on this issue. Before I come to a final position,  
11 I will want, inclusive of public testimony, and at the  
12 end of the process, I can tell you that I plan to  
13 weigh heavily on the issue of a base, in the interest  
14 of a facility that is located physically in my  
15 district.

16 In the interest of the constituents of my  
17 district and in the interest of all Miami-Dade County  
18 people that I represent, as I stand before you tonight  
19 and I feel like Yogi Bera when he said, "This reminds  
20 me of deja vu all over again."

21 Thank you.

22 COLONEL McSHANE: I'd like to call on Senator  
23 Roberto Casas. Is Senator Roberto Casas here? I  
24 don't see him.

25 Senator Daryl Jones.

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1 000023 SENATOR DARYL JONES: Good evening members of  
2 the panel, ladies and gentlemen. I am Senator Daryl  
3 Jones from District 40. I represent the area that is  
4 encompassed by Homestead Air Force Base, as well as  
5 going to the east to where Biscayne National Park  
6 begins and west to where we have Everglades National  
7 Park.

8 I want to thank you for providing us the  
9 opportunity tonight to engage in this very important  
10 part of the democratic process. I'd like to make four  
11 points.

12 First, it was kind of interesting to arrive  
13 tonight and see the protests on the outside. It's  
14 nice to see some action, not necessarily calmed, but  
15 at least controlled. There were some people who are  
16 obviously for and some who are against this very  
17 difficult issue.

18 As your elected official, as I looked at  
19 that group, I saw on the left people who wanted jobs,  
20 who need them, who wanted higher paying jobs. On the  
21 right I saw people who care a great deal about the  
22 environment.

23 So this is why this is a very difficult  
24 issue. On balance, I find it very tough to take the  
25 opportunity for food out of the mouth of another

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COMMENTS

1 person and their family. The Supplemental  
2 Environmental Impact Statement says that a commercial  
3 airport can be built in a manner that would mitigate  
4 any harm to the environment. I have not seen any  
5 other study that contradicts this statement.

6 While I value the opinions and input of  
7 every citizen, I believe it is important for our  
8 objective decision makers to have some basis in fact  
9 for their decision. This is why I support Dade  
10 County's proposal.

11 My third point is that, if I am not  
12 mistaken, I don't believe anywhere in the United  
13 States is there a dual field, having heavy and fire  
14 operations in a single place. If you look at the  
15 outline estimate of how much traffic there will be on  
16 this facility if you build the commercial airport,  
17 One, you either have to build two runways which I  
18 think would be a violation of the trust imposed by the  
19 SEIS or, Two, you are going to have to move the  
20 military fighter presence from Homestead Air Force  
21 Base. I don't know that either one of those is a  
22 viable option.

23 Fourth, the Air Force has a thirty-four base  
24 closure, following the local community's  
25 recommendation each and every time. All thirty-four

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1 times they have followed the recommendations of the  
2 citizens. Should the Air Force not follow Dade  
3 County's recommendation in this particular case, I  
4 think it would be difficult, because future brass  
5 senators and congressmen will ask you: Why did you  
6 close the base and not allow the community to build  
7 what they wanted to build there, and will that happen  
8 in my home as well? So it could be difficult for you  
9 guys.

10 So I respectfully request that while the  
11 Collier and Hoover plan show promise, there are a  
12 great number of questions that remain with that  
13 particular plan.

14 I respectfully request that you at this time  
15 support Dade County's plan.

16 COLONEL McSHANE: Stanley T.G. James.  
17 Indications were that there was a letter to be read in  
18 lieu of testimony. Do we have that letter?

19 Moving on to Speaker of the House of  
20 Representatives, John Tasher.

21 Moving on to State Representative Gaston  
22 Cantens.

23 SPEAKER: It's a public hearing. Hear from  
24 the people.

25 000024 REPRESENTATIVE GASTON CANTENS: Thank you.

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1 Thank you for the opportunity to make  
2 comments here today about the reuse of Homestead Air  
3 Reserve Base, and particularly about the SEIS. You've  
4 heard from many elected officials tonight on their  
5 views toward a redevelopment of Homestead Air Reserve  
6 Base. I would like to take this opportunity for a  
7 moment, to remove my hat as an elected official, and  
8 speak as a private citizen.

9 There is a book called The Death of Common  
10 Sense, and that's what has occurred in this case.  
11 Citizens of this great nation are frustrated. They  
12 are tired with government at all levels. They are  
13 tired and frustrated with the rules and regulations,  
14 that sometimes we wonder whether government is in  
15 place to help us or merely to make our lives  
16 miserable.

17 Eight years of studies since Hurricane  
18 Andrew and the realignment of the base have resulted  
19 in nothing more than economic devastation to the South  
20 Miami-Dade area, and still we cannot see the obvious.  
21 Every elected official that has spoken here tonight  
22 has spoken about the need for a reliever airport in  
23 Dade County, and that need will occur within the next  
24 five or ten years.

25 We have three choices. We can use Opa-Locka

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1 Airport as has been suggested. That airport has the  
2 same restrictions that we currently have in Miami  
3 International Airport, even greater restrictions.  
4 It's in the middle of a residential neighborhood, no  
5 room to grow.

6 We have Homestead Air Reserve Base, choice  
7 Number 2. It's always been an airport. It's always  
8 going to be an airport. It has one of the longest  
9 runways in the nation.

10 We do have a third choice, however. That  
11 third choice is that come five or ten years from now,  
12 when the need is a present need a for sale sign will  
13 go up around Homestead Air Reserve Base, and us, the  
14 citizens of Miami-Dade County, will have to buy back  
15 the land to build that reliever airport that the  
16 federal government should have given to Miami-Dade  
17 County today.

18 I heard earlier that this is a local issue.  
19 You are right. It's a local issue. It's a Miami-Dade  
20 County issue, because five years from now we all will  
21 be paying the bill to acquire the two thousand acres  
22 that it will take to build that reliever airport, if  
23 we don't get the reserve base transferred to  
24 Miami-Dade County.

25 Let us use common sense and allow the

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1 federal government to transfer the Homestead Air  
2 Reserve Base to Miami-Dade County so we can move  
3 forward together as one community.

4 Thank you.

5 COLONEL McSHANE: I call on Representative  
6 Rudy Garcia.

7 00025. REPRESENTATIVE RUDY GARCIA: Thank you. Good  
8 evening distinguished panel members, ladies and  
9 gentlemen, elected officials.

10 I come before you tonight as a fisherman, as  
11 a sportsman, as a boater, as someone that loves this  
12 environment. I was born and raised here, and I have  
13 received many awards by environmentalists throughout  
14 my public service in the Florida House of  
15 Representatives.

16 I represent District 110, in the area of  
17 Hialeah, Miami Lakes.

18 Back in 1992, right after Hurricane Andrew,  
19 where many of the people that are sitting behind me  
20 today lost a lot of their lives, homes and property, I  
21 came down to South Dade to help rebuild with thousands  
22 of people from the north side of town. After that we  
23 went up to Tallahassee and brought to Dade County,  
24 south of Kendall Drive, over six hundred fifty million  
25 dollars to try to bring this community back to where

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1 it needed to be before Hurricane Andrew.

2 With that said, I understand many of the  
3 problems that have occurred in South Dade, including  
4 no baseball team, the loss of the Base, Hurricane  
5 Andrew and many other things that have happened here,  
6 including what is going on with the farmers today in  
7 South Dade, where we are continuing to lose jobs day  
8 after day.

9 The reason I am here this evening,  
10 distinguished panel, is to ask you to consider the  
11 jobs, to ask you to consider the economic development  
12 that Mayor Wallace and Mayor Shiver are so hard  
13 working for, as well as ask you to consider the  
14 environmental constraints that this community needs,  
15 but the bottom line here, ladies and gentlemen, is  
16 that this community truly needs economic development,  
17 and we need the jobs that will come with the airport.

18 Thank you very much.

19 COLONEL McSHANE: Next we'll call on  
20 representative Marco Rubio. Representative Rubio. I  
21 don't see him.

22 Representative Larcenia Bullard.

23 00026 REPRESENTATIVE LARCENIA BULLARD: Good  
24 evening. Good evening to you distinguished panel and  
25 to the people from District 118 and 119. I am

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1 speaking to you, because you are the ones who will be  
2 affected by all this taking place in this area.

3 As I've listened to the speakers, I couldn't  
4 help but think that here we are again in a staging  
5 room. I am a state representative, and because I am a  
6 state representative, I cannot take a position on  
7 something that you didn't vote for.

8 As I listened to Commissioner Sorenson  
9 speak, I had to turn to the right of me, then I turned  
10 to the back of me and I turned to the left of me, and  
11 I saw all of this great embrace and applause, and I  
12 question where are we going tonight with this whole  
13 issue?

14 I understand there are two more meetings.  
15 Environmental versus economics, that's what I am  
16 hearing. There are two more meetings, am I correct --  
17 four more meetings. Environmental versus economic.  
18 There should not be any question.

19 Scientifically we know that we are polluting  
20 too many areas and we are taking away the clean air  
21 from people.

22 I am from a little town in South Carolina.  
23 My children, I brought them to South Dade in 1980  
24 because of clean air, because I wanted them to get the  
25 same experience I did.

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1 So I stand here today as an  
2 environmentalist, but also as someone who wants to see  
3 jobs, but I see and always see another way out. I  
4 can't take a position until I hear all that's being  
5 said, but I do say this, that I was one of the  
6 first -- and the guys from HADDI are here -- you  
7 know. You sat in my office. I talked to you. So I  
8 don't need to tell you what we talked about, because  
9 you know what happened.

10 The gentleman who was running this case at  
11 that time was a gentleman from out of town. He wanted  
12 to take Homestead Base and redevelop it. Of course,  
13 as most of you know, we've been to this area before  
14 and we've debated this whole issue and nothing has  
15 happened. I believe it needs to be developed, but I  
16 believe it needs to be developed for families, for  
17 social environment.

18 That's what I am here to tell you. I  
19 struggled with what happened, but I want to let you  
20 know that the people voted for local control. I came  
21 here tonight to hear citizen input and I've not yet  
22 heard it.

23 I will close on this note. I have always  
24 called back to the community. I've asked my  
25 commissioners, the groups who were involved, please

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COMMENTS

1 tell me what you think about this particular issue,  
2 and I see the majority of the citizens from this  
3 district, because I know most of you, saying that you  
4 don't want it.

5 Thank you.

6 COLONEL McSHANE: Representative Gus  
7 Marrero... Representative Gus Marrero.

8 Ola Massaline.

9 000027 OLA MASSALINE: Good evening. My name is Ola  
10 Massaline from the Naranja Community. It is wonderful  
11 that everybody is discussing what happens in our  
12 community. We have not been invited to participate,  
13 and everything you do there is going to directly  
14 concern us.

15 We are hurting there. A lot of us have  
16 remembrances of the United States Air Force. They  
17 left us. We have not recovered since Andrew. We are  
18 not for or against any group, but what we are saying  
19 is that we will not be divided as a community. We are  
20 White, Black, Hispanic, Haitian, and we are together.  
21 Dade County is going nowhere before we are through.

22 We need jobs.

23 I cried when I came in the building, because  
24 people are arguing. They are not acting like  
25 Americans, that my husband fought for. We cannot do

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1 anything fighting, but when Americans make up their  
2 minds to come together and work together, like the  
3 Americans that I know, we can find peaceful solutions.

4 Just in case anybody is interested, Naranja  
5 is saying: Let's form a coalition. Let's come  
6 together and reason together. We need your help.  
7 You've built barns for your neighbors. We are your  
8 neighbors. You've built houses for your neighbors.  
9 We are your neighbors. We are suffering in Naranja  
10 because we have nothing.

11 Six hundred million dollars given to Dade  
12 County, not one penny was spent for recovery in  
13 Naranja. Our children stay out on the street,  
14 because they have nowhere to go, nothing to do in  
15 Naranja. People say they don't want to come to that  
16 area, but we have good children in Naranja. We have  
17 honest people in Naranja.

18 I am heartbroken to see Americans come to  
19 the table and acting like fifteen year old children.  
20 God forgive us, because we've forgotten who we are.

21 Let's come to the table. Let's sit down,  
22 and as the Bible that's sitting on the table in our  
23 bedroom, come, let's reason together.

24 We are hurting in Naranja and we need your  
25 help.

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1 Thank you.

2 COLONEL McSHANE: I am going to call on the  
3 representatives from Miami-Dade County who will be  
4 given no more than a ten minute presentation.

5 Folks, if you want to get going on this --  
6 Gary DeLapa, Merrett Stierheim and Ramon Rasco.

7 MERRETT STIERHEIM: Mr. Chairman and members  
8 of the committee, my name is Merrett Stierheim. I am  
9 the County Manager for Miami-Dade County. I want to  
10 make a statement.

11 Can you hear me now? Start the clock again,  
12 please.

13 My name is Merrett Stierheim. I am the  
14 County Manager of Miami-Dade County. I want to say  
15 very clearly that I am not here to support any  
16 degradation or adverse environmental impact to either  
17 Everglades National Park or Biscayne National Park.

18 I have fished in the backwoods of the park  
19 and in the bay for over forty years. I love that area  
20 deeply.

21 This is my second term as county manager,  
22 total of eleven years now, almost twelve, and nine  
23 years as President of Greater Miami Convention Bureau.  
24 I think I have an appreciation for the importance of  
25 the aviation industry to the economy of Dade County.

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1 We are one of three international gateway  
2 airports in the United States. The majority of our  
3 visitors are from abroad, international. We have over  
4 ten million overnight visitors who come visit here,  
5 and that includes tourists as well as business people,  
6 and that tourism industry generates sixteen billion  
7 dollars with direct and indirect impact on about  
8 twenty-five percent of our work force in Dade County.

9 We are an international gateway city. I  
10 think this is a pragmatic issue. I look upon it, and  
11 we use a metaphor, like preserve a wealthy  
12 environment. You may not need water today, but you  
13 know you are going to need it tomorrow.

14 The SEIS study made it very clear that after  
15 we expand our five billion dollar expansion program at  
16 Miami International Airport, after we expand Miami  
17 International Airport to its maximum capacity, after  
18 we expand Opa-Locka to maximum capacity, after we  
19 expand Fort Lauderdale International to maximum  
20 capacity, the SEIS made it very clear that by 2015 we  
21 are not going to have sufficient capacity to continue  
22 to grow and prosper internationally.

23 Ninety-five percent of our visitors come by  
24 air. If you don't think we are dependent on air  
25 travel for the economy of this community, as a gateway

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1 community, you have another thing coming.  
 2 I guess, to close, we think it's very  
 3 important that we reserve that capacity at Homestead  
 4 Air Force Base. There is no other choice. We built a  
 5 jetport in the middle of the Everglades and abandoned  
 6 it. We studied building an airport in Northeast Dade  
 7 and abandoned it. There are no other alternatives  
 8 that I am aware of, and I think your study  
 9 demonstrated that.

10 Our position, respectfully, is that we wish  
 11 to support the position taken by the County.

12 Thank you.

13 GARY DeLAPA: Good evening. My name is Gary  
 14 DeLapa. I am the Aviation Director for Miami-Dade  
 15 County, Florida. We operate Miami International  
 16 Airport, Opa-Locka and hopefully Homestead Air Force  
 17 Base. I've been in the community over thirty-five  
 18 years. I graduated from the University of Miami, and  
 19 I have worked for county government for nearly thirty  
 20 years.

21 I would like to thank you for giving us the  
 22 opportunity to present our department's recommendation  
 23 for redevelopment of the former Air Force Base. It is  
 24 important for this panel to bear in mind that the  
 25 airnautical capacity issues I am addressing tonight

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1 are not only a South Dade issue. They are not just a  
 2 Miami-Dade County issue. These are issues of great  
 3 concern for all of Florida.

4 You've already heard from our mayor and  
 5 other elected officials on what the decision means to  
 6 the continued prosperity of this area. Our County  
 7 Manager has reminded you of the process that has  
 8 gotten us to this point.

9 History is on the side of aviation. The  
 10 South Florida community has a longstanding and  
 11 preeminent position in the aviation world, dating back  
 12 to the first airline terminal in the United States in  
 13 1928, and continuing through the tremendous growth of  
 14 both tourism and foreign trade.

15 This community has come to rely on the  
 16 aviation industry as the heartbeat of our local  
 17 economy and the chief provider of jobs. All is not  
 18 well. All is not well, however. The current system  
 19 of the airport is actually strained to its limit and  
 20 will be unable to meet future market demands unless we  
 21 have a new facility.

22 Along the walls of this auditorium we have  
 23 displayed documents and graphics on future aviation  
 24 demands, and on our capacity to meet the demand. It's  
 25 imperative that you understand our inability to meet

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1 market growth demands means loss of economic activity  
 2 and a serious impact on our employment base and  
 3 business community.

4 You may be aware of our efforts in the  
 5 construction of a fourth runway at Miami  
 6 International. This project is the single most  
 7 important element of the aviation department's long  
 8 and short range goals of meeting the capacity needs.  
 9 However, this final incremental gain in MIA's capacity  
 10 will not be able to meet the aircrafts forecast beyond  
 11 the year 2015.

12 As the airport's sponsor, our primary goal  
 13 and strategy is to provide a facility that meets both  
 14 near, as well as long term demands. Of course, the  
 15 critical element is to preserve the flexibility to be  
 16 able to react to future market conditions that may be  
 17 unforeseen today, such as a free Cuba, change in  
 18 airlines operating practices or airlines parts, the  
 19 growth of E-commerce and the success of the free trade  
 20 agreement, which will stimulate the foreign economy.

21 Miami-Dade's most limited capacity  
 22 constraint today is the number of full service  
 23 commercial carrier runways available in our airport  
 24 system. Under the current direction, MIA is quickly  
 25 reaching exasperation, and it is at the point where

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1 there is no additional runway capacity that can be  
 2 provided.

3 Numerous efforts in the last three decades  
 4 to identify new sites in South Florida for a  
 5 commercial aviation facility have proven unsuccessful.  
 6 There are no other properties.

7 Consequently, the most crucial issue  
 8 confronting us today is the decision on the ultimate  
 9 reuse plan for Homestead Air Force Base. That  
 10 decision will affect whether or not this community  
 11 will be able to accommodate and provide economic  
 12 benefit from the tremendous worldwide growth of the  
 13 aviation forecast.

14 This is growth that we will be unable to be  
 15 meet with MIA. From an aviation point of view, the  
 16 conclusion is inescapable. We need Homestead.

17 However, this need will not come at the  
 18 expense of environmental compatibility. The plan is  
 19 to provide an aviation facility to meet the demands,  
 20 while ensuring a balance between environmental issues,  
 21 equality of life issues and economic opportunity for  
 22 our residents.

23 Our own analysis, supported by this  
 24 independent SEIS, and numerous other studies, indicate  
 25 that there are no adverse environmental impacts

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COMMENTS

1 associated with a commercial airport.

2 The air noise attributable to military

3 operation, they are far outweighed by national defense

4 consideration. The noise impact from commercial

5 aircraft operations are found to be less intrusive

6 than those resulting from the military presence.

7 Mayor Penelas addressed the fact that he was

8 unable to present information on our position on

9 environmental concerns, but is going to be reflected

10 in my comments.

11 Miami-Dade County is committed to ensuring

12 that the planning phase development of the commercial

13 airport alternative is implemented in an

14 environmentally compatible way. These are not just

15 words or hollow promises.

16 The Miami-Dade Aviation Department has a

17 long track record of environmental responses. MIA, we

18 have spent over one hundred seventy million dollars

19 since 1994 to address environmental issues. We are

20 recognized internationally as the leader among

21 airports in dealing with environmental matters. Our

22 current construction program is built upon maintaining

23 the environmental quality of not only the airport, but

24 of surrounding communities as well.

25 These are real testaments of our commitment.

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1 Under the leadership of Mr. Penelas and Merrett

2 Stierheim, no one should fear implementation of the

3 airport alternative.

4 COLONEL McSHANE: Sir, the ten minutes is for

5 the group of you. You are taking more than that.

6 RAMON RASCO: Just two minutes, please.

7 COLONEL McSHANE: I am sorry, but I announced

8 the ground rules at the beginning. We did say ten

9 minutes. Sorry.

10 First card from members of the public is

11 Maurice Ferrer. Is he still here?

12 Proceed.

13 Superintendent Dick Ring.

14 000028 SUPERINTENDENT DICK RING: Good evening. I

15 appreciate the opportunity to be here to speak to you

16 this evening.

17 My name is Dick Ring. I am Superintendent

18 of Everglades National Park. I'd like to say that the

19 National Parks Service and national parks are very

20 much an integral part of the community. They are not

21 separate and apart from it. We are part of the

22 national community, a community that's made up of all

23 people in the United States.

24 We support conversion of Homestead Air Force

25 Base for the economic benefit of South Dade. We very

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1 much support that. However, we want a sustainable

2 solution here, not one that we have to undo and redo

3 in our lifetime and hopefully in our children's and

4 grandchildren's.

5 We have expressed areas of concern in the

6 SEIS process. They've included water volume, noise

7 and secondary impact from growth associated with any

8 selected alternative here. We've been heavily

9 involved in the supplemental SEIS process as a

10 cooperating agency and hope to continue to be.

11 The commercial airport proposal that's in

12 the Draft SEIS will bring jobs, but we don't believe

13 that it is compatible with the national parks and we

14 do not believe it's a sustainable solution for this

15 community. You need only go and spend some time here

16 in Miami International Airport, and listen and look

17 around you, to understand what the future holds.

18 By 2015 there will be two hundred flights a

19 day over this community and the national parks.

20 That's one every five minutes. That's degradation of

21 a national park that is significant.

22 A mixed use alternative will provide jobs

23 for this community and it is an alternative that's

24 sustainable, and I believe in the best interest of the

25 entire community. I believe we should leave an

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1 outstanding legacy for our children and grandchildren,

2 one that does keep up with the outstanding national

3 resources and quality of life here in South Dade, one

4 that does not leave them with the choice between

5 undoing significant impact from noise and development

6 or face leaving a place that is lousy to live in.

7 Thank you very much.

8 COLONEL McSHANE: Superintendent Dick Frost.

9 000029 SUPERINTENDENT DICK FROST: Good evening. It

10 won't surprise you if I said I'd second most of what

11 Dick Ring said.

12 The SEIS is certainly an impressive

13 document. It contains a lot of very useful, valuable

14 information.

15 As a national park superintendent, and as a

16 resident of this area, I find that a lot of that

17 information leads me to two very strong conclusions.

18 One, that a commercial airport is not the best use for

19 the air base -- for the former air base, not the best

20 use for the environment and the impact on the

21 environment or impact on the community.

22 Second is the fact that there are viable

23 economic alternatives that the air base can be used

24 for that don't have the same negative impact.

25 Dick Ring mentioned one of the statistics

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1 that jumped out of the SEIS. I want to mention a  
 2 couple more.

3 At maximum capacity there will be six  
 4 hundred flights a day out of that airport. Those six  
 5 hundred flights will fly over our neighborhoods, our  
 6 wetlands and national parks. That means most of those  
 7 six hundred flights by the way will be compressed into  
 8 the ten hour period, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.,  
 9 which averages about one every one to one and a half  
 10 minutes. I took those figures from the SEIS.

11 The altitude for those flights crossing into  
 12 Biscayne National Park will be sixteen hundred feet or  
 13 less. The altitude for the flights crossing into  
 14 Everglades National Park are from three thousand to  
 15 forty-three hundred feet. The cruising altitudes for  
 16 these planes is anywhere from twenty-five to  
 17 thirty-five thousand feet.

18 There are other statistics.

19 Over Key Largo, there will be one hundred  
 20 twenty-four flights a day in that same ten hour  
 21 period. That's one every seven minutes. Those  
 22 flights will produce a forty percent increase in the  
 23 noise level in Key Largo.

24 I have with me a letter that was sent to the  
 25 Air Force from the Department of Interior. I want to

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1 read quickly some excerpts so everyone will understand  
 2 the position of the Department of Interior.

3 It say, "The Department believes that the  
 4 mixed use alternative" -- the mixed use in this case  
 5 means the kind of alternative represented by the  
 6 Collier/Hoover proposals -- "is the preferred approach  
 7 to achieve the stated goals for disposal of this  
 8 property, and urges the Air Force to adopt the mixed  
 9 use alternative in its recommended decision. The  
 10 Department believes that the mixed use is preferable  
 11 to development of a commercial airport, because it  
 12 avoids adverse impact on national parks and avoids  
 13 adverse impact on wildlife. It offers additional  
 14 environmental benefits, avoids potential disruption on  
 15 Everglades restoration activity and offers substantial  
 16 economic benefit to South Florida."

17 COLONEL McSHANE: Time.

18 SUPERINTENDENT DICK FROST: It also says  
 19 that, "The Air Force's goal -- quote -- "is to dispose  
 20 of the property in a manner that supports local  
 21 community and revitalizes South Florida. The  
 22 Department of Interior believes this goal should  
 23 be" (inaudible.)

24 COLONEL McSHANE: Next is David Ritz.

25 000030 DAVID RITZ: Good evening. My name is David

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1 Ritz. I am the president of the homeowners  
 2 association at Ocean Reef, which is located in Key  
 3 Largo, just southeast of the air base.

4 With me tonight are a number of residents  
 5 from Key Largo, who drove up from the Florida Keys.  
 6 We appreciate the opportunity to come up here and  
 7 speak tonight.

8 Obviously, it is in our best interest to  
 9 have our group provide written comments rather than  
 10 speak tonight. With your permission, my statement  
 11 also will be representative of the group you saw.

12 First, let me state that we are opposed to  
 13 the airport as proposed in the SEIS. We are in favor  
 14 of one of the alternative uses, and we feel that the  
 15 SEIS is flawed. Unfortunately, and mistakenly so, the  
 16 Draft SEIS stands for numerous impacts to Key Largo  
 17 and other communities surrounding.

18 The Draft statement says these surrounding  
 19 areas are impacted by military aircraft operations,  
 20 but there will be increased noise after developing a  
 21 commercial airport. Because the situation is  
 22 perceived bad now, that is no justification to make it  
 23 worse.

24 The increase in aircraft flights from the  
 25 approximate fifty-four daily operations, to the

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1 estimated six hundred daily operations at maximum  
 2 buildout, demonstrates the magnitude and the change  
 3 and its impact.

4 Obviously, the noise from the airport's  
 5 development is most troubling to the Upper Keys,  
 6 however there are other adverse impacts that cause us  
 7 concern.

8 According to the SEIS, the proposed airport  
 9 will increase local air pollution.

10 Biscayne Bay is already oversaturated with  
 11 pollutants and steps should be taken to lower those  
 12 levels. Instead, the airport will cause nitrates from  
 13 the airport up to a four-fold increase.

14 Simply put, an airport is not welcomed in  
 15 our neighborhood, outdoor residential areas.

16 Historically, the economy of South Dade has  
 17 been consisting of military and agriculture. The  
 18 military has been removed. Any action that will  
 19 negatively affect agriculture and tourism should be  
 20 avoided.

21 An alternative that supports the two  
 22 economies should be heard, and that is the  
 23 Collier/Hoover Group Plan discussed in the SEIS. This  
 24 alternative will provide much needed economic  
 25 development for South Dade County, without the adverse

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COMMENTS

1 environmental impact associated.

2 We support creating jobs that help the

3 continuing recovery after Hurricane Andrew. The

4 benefits should outweigh the environmental cost. Such

5 would not be the case with the proposed airport. We

6 encourage the Air Force to transfer the base and do

7 the Hoover plan.

8 SPEAKER: Time.

9 COLONEL McSHANE: Pete Shields.

10 000031 PETE SHIELDS: Thank you, Colonel. My name

11 is Pete Shields. I am just a citizen. I live in

12 Florida, but I see things a little different.

13 Carl Haas, a columnist from the Miami

14 Herald, reportedly is saying it's undisputable that

15 Homestead and Florida City haven't fully recovered

16 from Hurricane Andrew, but there are ways to develop

17 the air base without jeopardizing the community's

18 character, not to mention the two largest

19 attractions, Biscayne Bay and the Everglades.

20 With that as a backdrop, let's assume that

21 everybody in here has the same goals, jobs, a

22 prospering economy, an environmentally friendly

23 atmosphere within an acceptable time frame and at an

24 acceptable cost.

25 As a homeowner and a citizen who loves the

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1 Keys, let's just do a cursory examination of what is

2 on the table. The environment is affected by an

3 airport. We don't know how much, but I hear noise and

4 water pollution concerns to a certain level,

5 depending on the study you use.

6 The Hoover plan, as I understand, of course,

7 would be the environmentally friendliest.

8 How about funding available? I don't really

9 know about it. There appears to be problems with the

10 financial ins and outs.

11 Collier/Hoover has an impeccable track

12 record. They can, and they have made it happen.

13 Jobs is the number one issue that was

14 mentioned here tonight. Since Hoover has joined

15 Collier, and their efforts are compatible, I submit

16 that the immediate and total jobs and payroll dollars

17 as well, as a practical matter, will exceed that of an

18 airport.

19 Why do I say "in a practical manner?" It is

20 my understanding that there are formidable groups

21 present here tonight that will challenge the use of

22 Homestead Air Base as a commercial airport. They have

23 publicly stated they can tie up the decision for many

24 years.

25 What is to litigate with the Collier group?

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1 Lastly, and purely as a citizen, I have

2 something to say. For my share, as a citizen, Mr.

3 Chairman, Colonel, I am having trouble with why this

4 is difficult -- why this decision is so difficult.

5 Thank you.

6 COLONEL McSHANE: Sheppard Kingsman. I don't

7 see him.

8 Norm Kramer.

9 000032 NORM KRAMER: Hi, Folks. My name is Norm,

10 and I am the owner of Tropical Fun Center located in

11 downtown, picturesque Naranja. I am also a local

12 citizen. I've been down here, working, trying to make

13 a living off this area here with all the folks, with

14 the anticipation of development of the air base that

15 we were so badly let down years and years ago.

16 We are struggling. I know many other small

17 business people here that are struggling also.

18 Of the airport, the base has an airport.

19 We've got our life savings tied up here, and our life

20 right here in downtown Naranja, and we are looking

21 forward to some viable development.

22 Thank you.

23 COLONEL McSHANE: Ignacio Sanchez.

24 000033 IGNACIO SANCHEZ: Mr. Chairman, thank you for

25 the opportunity to speak on the alternatives that are

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1 available. As I listen to the speaker from the Ocean

2 Reef Club, I was appalled, because as has been

3 explained by Mayor Penelas, this is an issue that

4 concerns the future of Dade County.

5 When he called for a show of hands, and half

6 of this room is composed of rich people from Ocean

7 Reef who can care less about jobs and Naranja --

8 COLONEL McSHANE: We need to have the speaker

9 speak and the court reporter take it down or is not on

10 the record at all. So please hold your -- hold it.

11 Don't do it. Let the speaker speak.

12 IGNACIO SANCHEZ -- who can care less about

13 the economic opportunities of the people of Naranja

14 and who can care less of the small business owners as

15 Norm just explained, and who today don't care about

16 the future economic development of Dade County.

17 This is an asset that belongs to the people

18 of Dade County and belongs to the same people, who

19 like Norm, the people from Naranja, whose taxes paid

20 for their property and who gave up that property for

21 national defense in 1942, and now at the time that the

22 federal government is going to give it back, we should

23 give it back to the people of Dade County to develop

24 as an airport.

25 Thank you.

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1 COLONEL McSHANE: Roy G. Phillips.  
 2 000034 ROY G. PHILLIPS: Thank you very much.  
 3 My name is Roy Phillips. I live at 12725  
 4 Southwest 218 Street in Goulds, Florida, a poor  
 5 community. I am also an entrepreneur, one with a  
 6 business along Washington Avenue, an avenue that needs  
 7 business.  
 8 My wife and I came and we placed money in  
 9 this community after the hurricane to build it up. I  
 10 pay two kinds of taxes. I pay an assessment tax to  
 11 the City of three thousand six hundred fifty-eight  
 12 dollars and twenty cents and I also pay a tax to Dade  
 13 County.  
 14 We need jobs, and we need a plan. I had an  
 15 opportunity to work with the aviation and  
 16 environmental communities, two communities studding  
 17 the location of the airport, and all have come to the  
 18 conclusion that Homestead Air Force Base is the best  
 19 place to be.  
 20 I don't think you understand rich people.  
 21 Let me tell you something. We build stadiums for rich  
 22 people with taxes. Now we are going to build all this  
 23 land as an airport for people. What are we going to  
 24 do with the poor people of this town?  
 25 There are people who stayed in this area,

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1 didn't move out. Our business was destroyed, but we  
 2 stayed here, and we didn't run to Key Largo. We  
 3 didn't go to North Dade. We stayed in this town. We  
 4 the people make up this community.  
 5 When I stand on the outside and see these  
 6 poor people that come here because of agriculture,  
 7 because they work for a dime, they need jobs.  
 8 We need to deal with the people here in  
 9 Homestead and Florida City, where this Homestead  
 10 airport strip is located.  
 11 I love the environment. I am a biologist by  
 12 trade, but there are guarantees in this study to make  
 13 sure that we have an airport compatible with the  
 14 environment.  
 15 Thank you so much.  
 16 COLONEL McSHANE: Commissioner Miriam Alonzo.  
 17 000035 COMMISSIONER MIRIAM ALONZO: I am here in  
 18 support of the airport. I believe that we have gone  
 19 through an extensive process. I believe that we have  
 20 done everything possible, and I am here to support the  
 21 people of Homestead. I am here to support the  
 22 thousands of jobs that this community needs. There is  
 23 no doubt in my mind, and all of these studies have  
 24 proven, that we have a tremendous need for an  
 25 expansion of the airport.

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1 We need Homestead to have an airport. We  
 2 need to have these jobs. I think the process has to  
 3 be completed. It has been eight long years of studies  
 4 and now it's time to deliver to this community. I  
 5 think the long promises, the long wait -- as a matter  
 6 of fact, I believe that the citizens of Homestead have  
 7 waited too long and now it's time to deliver on the  
 8 promises and to complete the process, and that's what  
 9 I am here tonight to say, what the voices of the  
 10 thousands of residents of South Dade are asking.  
 11 They want the jobs. They want an  
 12 environmentally sensitive airport, and we need the  
 13 development in Homestead.  
 14 I am here to bring that message and to say  
 15 that this is the best location for this airport.  
 16 Thank you very much.  
 17 COLONEL McSHANE: John Merrigan.  
 18 000036 JOHN MERRIGAN: My name is John Merrigan.  
 19 For a long time I've been critical of the Air Force  
 20 for how long it took to get the study to this stage  
 21 tonight, but I want to commend the Air Force, because  
 22 despite the acrimony, this is the stage we got  
 23 together to.  
 24 The study the Air Force produced is so  
 25 thorough, so good, that it answers the most important

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1 questions. Most people in this room have to deal  
 2 with, who are you going to believe?  
 3 Opa-Locka is an alternative you read in the  
 4 newspaper. The study says it isn't, and it proves it  
 5 isn't.  
 6 In this room you get a lot of opinions about  
 7 shocking statistics about what the study says. The  
 8 study is your interest. You are the ones. You should  
 9 be able to make a decision about what is truth and  
 10 what is fact.  
 11 One last point, really to go over the  
 12 skepticism, and anybody that tells you, the facts are  
 13 available. Whether you believe those facts or not,  
 14 when you hear, "We are going to tie this process up,"  
 15 that is the last -- worse thing possible.  
 16 COLONEL McSHANE: The next speaker will be  
 17 Robert Cruz.  
 18 Let me go ahead and call a couple of other  
 19 names so we don't use the time finding these folks.  
 20 Steve Bateman will follow and Marielena Villamil.  
 21 000037 DR. ROBERT CRUZ: My name is Dr. Robert Cruz.  
 22 I am Professor of Economics at Barry University and  
 23 citizen of Dade County. I am here to support the  
 24 county's proposal, because I think it a sound proposal  
 25 and meets the test of protecting the environment and

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COMMENTS

1 at the same time creating jobs.

2 Your own supplemental impact study, prepared

3 by the Air Force, clearly demonstrates that the

4 county's proposal would have a much greater impact on

5 jobs and income than either of the alternative

6 proposals presented.

7 The Collier/Hoover proposal, are dependent

8 on an assumption that in my opinion carries a greater,

9 much greater forecast risk than the County's proposal,

10 and the economic impact cannot be revealed.

11 The growth and demand for air transportation

12 services in Miami-Dade is well documented and

13 difficult to dispute. Moreover, the Hoover and

14 Collier proposal plans to convert a public asset into

15 a private asset, and that should be part of your

16 consideration.

17 The analysis provided by the professionally

18 prepared supplemental indicated three times the

19 earnings in the community than the Collier plan, twice

20 as many earnings as the Hoover plan. Moreover, the

21 County's plan will clearly generate higher quality

22 jobs throughout the community.

23 The announcement of economic impact prepared

24 by the SEIS are based on a well-founded methodology.

25 One of the things that is not included in that study

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1 is that the fuller County proposal would likely

2 generate -- creates serious opportunities for new

3 businesses to emerge.

4 Economists like myself, who have studied the

5 South Florida area, would agree that after World War

6 II the economic growth in South Florida has been the

7 creation of the local transportation mega, including

8 the airport and the seaport. In fact, Dade County

9 could not have emerged as a center to international

10 trade if it had not been for the infrastructure

11 investments that were made at the airport and the

12 seaport.

13 I think that we have to keep in mind that

14 this area of course is in need -- in great need of

15 economic development. That is clear. The statistics

16 clearly show that Miami lacks behind the nation in the

17 creation of jobs, lacks behind the state in creation

18 of jobs, has a higher unemployment rate than the rest

19 of the nation and the rest of the state.

20 This area obviously needs this investment

21 to keep the growth momentum growing. Improvements at

22 MIA can only go so far. It's time to create the

23 expanded capacity that's necessary by preparing a new

24 commercial airport.

25 Thank you.

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1 COLONEL McSHANE: Is Steve Bateman here? I

2 don't see him. Ms. Villamil?

3 000038 MARIELENA VILLAMIL: Yes.

4 Thank you for letting me speak to the

5 distinguished panel. I am here to speak on economic

6 development. Economic development leads to improving

7 standard of living for the average citizen in the

8 community.

9 A commercial airport is the superior anchor

10 to enhance the economic development potential of the

11 Air Base at Homestead and Miami-Dade County, relative

12 to the other types of investments proposed for the

13 Homestead Air Force Base.

14 Let me explain what my -- how I reached my

15 conclusion. First, the average pay in the aviation

16 industry is thirty-four thousand dollars per year,

17 thirty-two percent higher than the average wage of

18 twenty-five thousand nine hundred dollars per year

19 involved in recreation services.

20 Therefore, the higher income generated by

21 aviation employment, relative to the other types of

22 project incentives, would stimulate economic

23 development in Homestead to a greater degree than

24 recreational projects.

25 Second, aviation employment and activities

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1 also depend on human capital in a community, leading

2 to a higher labor force. For example, more than

3 one-third of the employment in the aviation industry

4 is composed of skilled workers, defined as those with

5 degrees beyond high school, such as engineers,

6 mechanics, supervisory personnel.

7 Leisure employment, on the other hand, does

8 not require the same highly developed skills that are

9 found in multi-faceted activities of a modern

10 commercial airport.

11 Third, a fact that strongly favors a

12 commercial airport in Homestead is the demand for

13 efficient air cargo services. Miami International

14 Airport is already saturated with the handling of two

15 million tons of cargo each year. The dual economic

16 integration between South Florida and Latin America,

17 the need for warehouse infrastructure to service, the

18 expanding E-commerce business, all indicate the

19 revitalization of the future of Homestead Airport.

20 The other projects however do not enjoy the

21 demand or need as that of an airport in southern

22 Miami-Dade County, which is the gateway of the

23 Americas.

24 In essence, the viability of an airport is

25 certainly superior to the viability of the other

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1 projects presented. These other projects are not  
2 strongly tied to the demands for international  
3 commerce and the off-line infrastructure demands of  
4 the economy of the 21st century.

5 A modern airport complex is essential for  
6 the establishment of high wages, high value businesses  
7 that require fast and efficient transportation.

8 The other projects do not stimulate economic  
9 responsiveness that a modern airport can create.

10 Thank you very much.

11 COLONEL McSHANE: Next three names are  
12 Lawrence Levinson, Patricia Robbins and Augustine  
13 Esquenla.

14 Lawrence Levinson.

15 000039 LAWRENCE LEVINSON: My name is Larry  
16 Levinson. I've been very privileged to work for the  
17 communities of Homestead and Florida City, and I want  
18 to direct my comments tonight very brief to the very  
19 issue that you raised, Colonel, with respect to the  
20 environmental impact statement. I want to address  
21 those issues.

22 First, let me point out that it is certainly  
23 important and critical to know that this document, by  
24 the way, was over a thousand pages long. It is the  
25 size of the Los Angeles telephone directory. It's

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1 about the size of the New York telephone directory. A  
2 lot of work has gone into it. We believe that it has  
3 in all these pages responded clearly and with  
4 persuasive force to all the environmental points that  
5 have been raised during the extended period, that is,  
6 issues ranging from A through Z, from air quality, to  
7 noise, to safety and zoning.

8 So the treatment of these issues should put  
9 to rest once and for all any concerns that  
10 environmental compatibility of the proposed disposed  
11 transaction, that is a commercial airport at  
12 Homestead, which as we all know was recommended in the  
13 Air Force study, and the broad community participation  
14 by Miami-Dade County, which is recognized and  
15 supported by the Department of Defense.

16 At this time, under law, policy and  
17 precedent, the community's plan, in this case the  
18 commercial airport, must be given inclusive  
19 presumptive weight by the Air Force. Washington does  
20 not make the decision alone. The community does.  
21 That's monumental of the branch of law.

22 The Air Force has full jurisdiction in  
23 determining how the base will be disposed of. Let me  
24 conclude by speaking about three additional points.

25 First, we believe that the Air Force should

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1 reject the Collier plan. The proposal is  
2 unreasonable. It's not an alternative acceptable  
3 under the National Environmental Policy Act, and our  
4 comments are going to tell you why. You must  
5 disregard the Collier plan, because it came too late,  
6 too late in the process. Johnny come lately. It is  
7 not feasible, because it is tied in with conditions  
8 and speculative in deed.

9 Your very own paragraph, let me quote,  
10 states on Page 2, Line 4, the following: The Collier  
11 proposal is dependent on the ability to exchange  
12 federal base for property in the former Homestead Air  
13 Force Base, and it is not for certain whether the same  
14 can occur.

15 By the same technique, the draft also tells  
16 us that the Hoover plan we heard about tonight is also  
17 highly speculative, because no specific developer has  
18 been identified and it is unknown and we requires --

19 COLONEL McSHANE: Time, sir.

20 LAWRENCE LEVINSON: One last -- thank you. I  
21 have one more sentence to read. I just want one more  
22 second. Thirty seconds.

23 COLONEL McSHANE: Time.

24 LAWRENCE LEVINSON: Thank you, sir.

25 000040 PATRICIA ROBBINS: I am Patricia Robbins. I

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1 represent an organization in Homestead, Florida that  
2 has been in operation since 1991. My position with  
3 that organization is co-founder and president of this  
4 organization. We feed those who are hungry throughout  
5 the State of Florida. We feed ten thousand families  
6 in Goulds, Princeton and Homestead and Florida City.

7 I think this is very important for all of  
8 you here to know that. Jobs are needed in Homestead,  
9 Florida City, Goulds and Naranja. I ask you to  
10 support development of a commercial base in the  
11 Homestead area.

12 Thank you.

13 COLONEL McSHANE: Augustine Ojalgbe.

14 000041 AUGUSTINE O. AJALGBE: Thank you, Mr.  
15 Chairman. I would like to give my time to Ramon  
16 Rasco, if you permit that.

17 I ask to yield my time to the --

18 COLONEL McSHANE: I don't think we are going  
19 allow that under the rules. I am sorry.

20 AUGUSTINE O. AJALGBE: My name is Augustine  
21 Ojalgbe. I am a citizen. I live in the South Dade  
22 community. I support the conversion of the Homestead  
23 Air Force Base to Miami-Dade County for the  
24 development of the commercial airport. The commercial  
25 airport will bring to the community very good high

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COMMENTS

1 paying jobs, compared to Collier/Hoover.

2 As a member of South Dade County, South Dade

3 community, I feel good jobs -- a good commercial

4 airport will bring forth opportunities for minorities.

5 I support the commercial airport plan.

6 Thank you.

7 COLONEL McSHANE: Next three names are

8 Salomon Esquenias, Vanessa Mase and Mike Richardson.

9 000042 SALOMON B. ESQUENIA: My name is Salomon

10 Esquenias. After spending over five million dollars of

11 tax payers' dollars on the SEIS, which we all know

12 employs certain techniques, we are at basically the

13 same arrival, the same conclusion as in the 1994

14 environmental study, and this is that a commercial

15 airport at Homestead is environmentally compatible.

16 Now that we have gotten over our mental concern, it's

17 my belief and my opinion that the proposed action

18 under the SEIS is the preferred plan for an extremely

19 important reason.

20 First, we heard Alex Penelas. We have heard

21 Dade County Aviation Department say that Dade County

22 needs another airport. In fact, the SEIS has provided

23 that Miami International Airport is expected to reach

24 full capacity between the years 2006 and 2010, and

25 provides there is no other available site for the

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1 reliever airport, including Opa-Locka. You know,

2 South Florida needs a reliever airport at Homestead.

3 Second, we cannot allow for these airport to

4 be -- a public asset to be transferred to a private

5 developer. Homestead Airport needs to go back to the

6 members of the Miami-Dade County community.

7 Third, we have listened to Mayor Shiver of

8 Homestead and Wallace of Florida City, and they have

9 expressed the extreme need for their respective

10 communities to have jobs. It is provided that an

11 airport will generate over thirty-eight thousand

12 improved paying jobs, better jobs than any of the

13 other proposals plans in the SEIS.

14 My fourth and final reason is that airport

15 related jobs are estimated to generate over eight

16 hundred million dollars in revenue, and by the year

17 2015 reach over one billion dollars of revenue. This

18 will allow the people employment. This will allow a

19 strong, solid economy.

20 The airport at Homestead would generate more

21 revenue than any of the others in the proposal, and

22 this is one of the reasons that I encourage you to go

23 beyond your environmental source to do what is right

24 for South Florida and to transfer the base back to

25 Miami-Dade County.

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1 COLONEL McSHANE: Is Vanessa Manes here? I

2 don't see her.

3 Mike Richardson.

4 000043 MIKE RICHARDSON: Good evening, Colonel.

5 Welcome to Homestead. My name is Mike Richardson. I

6 live at 590 Southeast 19 Drive in the city of

7 Homestead.

8 I came to Homestead in 1989 to be in the

9 Air Force, retired 1992, and soon after that became a

10 member of the We Will Rebuild Team that successfully

11 lobbied to bring the Air Force reserves back to

12 Homestead.

13 I worked with the Department of Defense as a

14 base transition coordinator to Homestead, a position I

15 left in 1996.

16 In the ensuing four years I've been

17 extremely frustrated by the divisiveness this issue

18 has caused in our community and the lack of progress,

19 of final economic use for a very important piece of

20 property to the economy of South Dade.

21 I have written comments for you, and I will

22 pass them on to you. Many of my comments have already

23 been addressed by other people here tonight. They

24 are familiar in two general areas. They are broad

25 conceptual things where I think you missed some issues

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1 that need to be addressed. I only had the opportunity

2 to look at the summary documents, and many of the

3 issues may be addressed in the larger document.

4 I have six editorial things at the end, of

5 some issues where I don't understand the points that

6 you are trying to make, and I think you need to write

7 them a little clearer.

8 There are two issues, however, that I think

9 the Air Force needs to address, and the Air Force in

10 and of itself is uniquely capable of doing.

11 One is, Judge, you need to get in the --

12 when I went through the base transmission coordinator

13 training, they told us about the defense property

14 disposal legislation. Basically once property is

15 declared surplus and excess, that one of the federal

16 agencies has an opportunity to claim that property.

17 When that window of opportunity closes, they no longer

18 have the opportunity to come back at a later date and

19 say, "Now we want it."

20 In my mind that precludes the Department of

21 Interior for asking for the property at this time so

22 that they can execute the Collier trade.

23 I am not a legal expert. You need to look

24 that one up.

25 The second issue that hasn't been well

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 MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130 A VENTURE COMPANY  
 2485 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD SUITE 700  
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 WEST PALM BEACH

1001 N.E.S. DARY ROAD - SUITE 228  
 NORTH MIAMI BEACH

1 EAST BROWARD BOULEVARD - SUITE 700  
 FORT LAUDERDALE

1 addressed, although it was alluded to earlier, was the  
 2 issue of what happens if we pick up one of the mixed  
 3 use alternatives that does not contribute operating  
 4 dollars direct to us. What is the impact going to be,  
 5 the next round of base closures -- the 482nd will be a  
 6 prime candidate for closures -- the next time we have  
 7 base closures. I will say that I am extremely  
 8 skeptical about the value of these public hearings,  
 9 given the facts that two cabinet level officials have  
 10 come out publicly in opposition to the commercial  
 11 airport. It seems like the administration has made up  
 12 their mind on this issue and you are wasting your time  
 13 and our time.

14 It says to me that as Vice President Gore  
 15 has already written the revised record of decision for  
 16 secretary Peters to use.

17 Thank you for your patience.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Next three names are Thomas  
 19 Weller, George Cadman and Oma Gomiz.

20 000044 THOMAS WELLER: I am Thomas Weller. I am an  
 21 attorney in town. A lot of people have left.  
 22 Apparently some of you are getting tired.

23 As an attorney, I've practice in a small  
 24 firm in Homestead since 1979. I enjoy parks. We were  
 25 in college in the early '70s and you can't be a

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1 non-environmentalist. I am here to tell you this  
 2 County needs -- since '92 a lot of people left. I am  
 3 glad you didn't. I didn't either. We need jobs.

4 The planned Air Force Base or the commercial  
 5 base is going to give us jobs the quickest, and in the  
 6 long run the best jobs. Until you can show me a plan  
 7 that does this swift as well, I am going to stick with  
 8 the commercial airport. Without these jobs we are  
 9 going to continue withering. We need them now.

10 There are a lot of people out there who are  
 11 against this and I am wondering how many of you have  
 12 read the SEIS, because this is not propaganda. You  
 13 need to get the facts. I am being presumtious enough  
 14 to say that the expert who did this knows what they  
 15 are talking about. In my job as an attorney I hire  
 16 experts. If they are unbiased, I believe them.

17 The study is unbiased as far as I can see.  
 18 The facts are here. They say there is no adverse --  
 19 significant adverse environmental impact. If it's  
 20 good, let's do it. The study is here. Now what?

21 Earlier a lot of you were upset that we had  
 22 people from elsewhere in Dade County and possibly  
 23 outside of Dade County speaking. We found this is a  
 24 lot of problem. The same people give to Sierra Club.

25 I would be willing to give you their comments -- there

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1 are extremely rude people here. I hope that you  
 2 people are not from South Dade, because I know most of  
 3 the people I know from South Dade are hospitable.

4 I hope your comments change, that you don't  
 5 hold any personal animosity and using threatening  
 6 tyranny on the (inaudible.)

7 A survey was done. Sixty-three percent back  
 8 this, as do I.

9 Thank you.

10 000045 GEORGE CADMAN: Good evening, Colonel. I am  
 11 George Cadman, United States Marine Reserve, retired,  
 12 also a native of South Dade.

13 I graduated from this high school -- as I  
 14 told to my wife I can hardly believe it -- twenty-one  
 15 years ago. I never thought I would be back here to do  
 16 something like this twenty-one years later.

17 I will share with you and the panel and the  
 18 folks that make the decision, I was please with the  
 19 information that you provided here in the analysis.  
 20 I felt very positive when I saw that you concurred  
 21 that out of the three uses for the air base, an  
 22 airport was a viable alternative, and I believe that  
 23 we have to look as a community to the future and not  
 24 be shortsighted because the County planners have said  
 25 we will need additional air space and airports in the

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1 future, and fifteen years from now it is not that far  
 2 away, because when I look back twenty-one years, that  
 3 wasn't very long ago.

4 For those of you who look in the future,  
 5 remember that fifteen years from now we shutdown an  
 6 economic development in Dade County because of your  
 7 lack for sight. This will be truly a tragedy for  
 8 those who come back after us.

9 I love this community. I love the  
 10 environment, and I think we need to protect it, but I  
 11 think we will build the necessary devices that will  
 12 protect the environment within this community, so that  
 13 we can work with balance and be able to work together  
 14 as a community and provide the jobs.

15 It tears my heart out to hear about the  
 16 folks in Naranja and the problems they are having and  
 17 the problems in Goulds. I know what it was like to go  
 18 through all the problems that we suffered through and  
 19 we still have not recovered. They are the people that  
 20 can't afford to go to our national parks. We have our  
 21 national parks and we have residents in our community  
 22 that can't even go to the national parks.

23 I mean, it is just unbelievable. I ask you,  
 24 this panel, and to the people in Washington, that we  
 25 come up with the opportunity to provide the jobs

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COMMENTS

necessary to restore this community to the position that it belongs in. It's just unconscionable to me -- I served this country in Vietnam. I've become very cynical when I see a process and when I hear, "We'll take you to court and we'll bring you to your knees." That makes me sick.

000046 KEN MARTONES: Good evening distinguished members. Good evening members of the Board. We have heard from probably most of the people that represent this community, our mayors and commissioners, our state representatives that have been here before us, except for one that has not read your report, which is the safest report we have. We all have the best interest of this community.

This community of Naranja Lakes is a community that has suffered through a lot after the base was closed. Over seventy percent of the people of the city have voted for the development of this airport -- commercial airport.

The Air Force already left intact the air field, as well as law enforcement agencies that are needed to proceed in their absence.

Now, Florida City has an incredible amount of unemployment, fifteen percent or higher. I implore you to make a decision and make a decision for this

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community to pull forth and in favor of the development of Homestead Air Force Base into a commercial airport.

Thank you.

COLONEL McSHANE: We've been going for about two and a half hours. We have a court reporter. At least a five minute break. We are going to take five.

(Short recess taken.)

COLONEL McSHANE: Please have a seat. I'd like to get going again. I do want to remind you that we are going to be having four more hearings over the next two days. There are two tomorrow in Kendall and there will be two on Thursday in Miami. I believe we start tomorrow at noon with the first of two hearings in Kendall and the second one at 7:00 p.m. Then on Thursday we'll be in Miami starting at noon and again at 7:00 p.m. for the evening session.

At this point I'd like to call on the next half a dozen names. If I call your name, just gravitate toward one of the microphones.

Mercedes Sellek, Alex Anzardo, Ralph Moore, Virginia Pike, Frank Nero.

Mercedes Sellek.

000047 MERCEDES SELLEK: Thank you. Good evening.

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My name is Mercedes Sellek. I am here to speak on the developer, Homestead Air Base Developers, Inc.

We heard a lot of hype and about the environmental impact of the airport and a flight-by-night-type of lease. All of that is a lie. We are here to tell you that HABDI is committed to an environmentally safe airport. This has been shown through the Chapter 288 process that was commenced here in the State of Florida with the water management plan, that was approved by the South Florida Water Management District, approved by all the appropriate environmental agencies and ultimately approved by Governor Lawton Chiles and the cabinet.

The environmental safeguards that are built into this project are secured by the 288 process and the permits have been obtained up-to-date on that. We will improve water quality into the bay 35 percent by the year 2005.

The project also brings tremendous economic development and opportunity to the entire Miami-Dade County community, particularly the South Dade County community, where it's most needed, and provides necessary airport capacity that has been discussed by the Aviation Department, the Mayor and the County Manager.

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It is critical for our airport transportation system and it's necessary for Miami-Dade County to remain in the forefront in the international trade relative to the 21st Century, the least of which is that the County would be the recipient of the billions of dollars in infrastructure built with HABDI's own money and stated facility for future e-commerce, aircraft maintenance and repair and other facilities to the community, our children and our grandchildren.

HABDI is committed to making this project work both environmentally and economically. We can build a safe airport that would be developed with appropriate mitigation measures implemented per Chapter 288 and whatever mitigation plans are required by the FAA and other environmental agencies.

For these reasons we are urge the Air Force to please consider and respect the SEIS, the process that has occurred to date and we ask that the Air Force along with the other agencies involved, including CEQ, transfer the property to Miami-Dade County.

Thank you.

000048 ALEX ANZARDO: Good evening. My name is Alex Anzardo. I've live in South Dade for over seven

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1 years. For the last twenty-four years I've lived one  
 2 mile from where the proposed airport will be built. I  
 3 will gladly put up with any inconvenience caused by  
 4 the airport, in the hopes that it will bring jobs into  
 5 this community. In my job I need to travel on a  
 6 monthly basis, on a daily basis. I am talking about  
 7 development of not just the city, but Cutler Ridge,  
 8 Harper's Bazar and Country Star. All these areas,  
 9 there are thousands of people that live here. If you  
 10 travel these areas you'll find many homes boarded up,  
 11 many people out of work.

12 If you go to other sections, you'll see how  
 13 many people are in government subsidized housing.  
 14 These people need jobs. I am very happy that Mayor  
 15 Alex Penelas and Steve Shiver have joined hands to  
 16 support this. This is a wonderful cause. Please  
 17 don't let this slip away.

18 Thank you.

19 COLONEL McSHANE: Ralph Moore.

20 000049 RALPH MOORE: My name is Ralph Moore and I am  
 21 a little different than most people that are here  
 22 tonight, because I am from Community Council Number  
 23 15, elected official of a neighborhood surrounding the  
 24 Homestead Air Force Base. I also work with Job  
 25 Services in Perrine dealing every day with people out

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1 of work from the neighborhoods the Perrine, Cutler  
 2 Ridge, Homestead, Florida City, Goulds.

3 I personally believe that we need jobs. We  
 4 need jobs badly in our area. Since Hurricane Andrew  
 5 hit this area the number of people coming to our  
 6 office has increased enormously. A lot of these  
 7 businesses in this area have moved out of the area  
 8 because the base closed and the people have moved out  
 9 of the area, so businesses have move out of the area  
 10 also.

11 We have a large number of people out of  
 12 work, no place to work, and most of the jobs are  
 13 headed north of Kendall Drive. These people don't  
 14 have money to have cars to drive north to get jobs  
 15 that far north.

16 I also live a mile from Homestead Air Force  
 17 Base. Like I said, I've talked to a lot of people,  
 18 and I wouldn't say all of them feel the same way, but  
 19 most of them told me they lived there before the base  
 20 was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew and we had  
 21 twenty-four flights a day. There was no noise.  
 22 Everybody was happy. I don't understand why now  
 23 suddenly everybody is against an airport, when we had  
 24 one before.

25 We need the help for people that are out of

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1 work. No one is talking for them here tonight. Those  
 2 are the people that should be here and saying, "We  
 3 need jobs."

4 Out of all the plans, we think the  
 5 commercial airport will bring the most jobs to our  
 6 community the fast way, but personally, anything that  
 7 would bring jobs I'd support. As a representative of  
 8 a community, we need jobs. We have an air strip. We  
 9 have a hanger. What is that? That's an airport. It  
 10 is an airport.

11 We need, in my opinion, a commercial airport  
 12 there and that would be the smartest thing that the  
 13 Air Force can do for the good of the community of this  
 14 area.

15 Thank you very much.

16 COLONEL McSHANE: Virginia Pike.

17 000050 VIRGINIA PIKE: Hello. I am Virginia Pike.  
 18 I am here tonight in support of the airport. South  
 19 Florida and Homestead have an opportunity that many  
 20 cities can dream of, the availability of thirty-eight  
 21 thousand jobs, economic development which can create  
 22 new jobs.

23 As tax payers we spend millions of dollars  
 24 in environmental and impact studies and every time  
 25 they come up saying the same thing, and there is no

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1 negative environmental impact.

2 Again, I would like to believe that we all  
 3 recognize that the human survival, in essence human  
 4 beings, that means having jobs and supporting our  
 5 family. This is the Number 1 issue.

6 The City of Homestead suffered terribly  
 7 during Hurricane Andrew. I have a few people here  
 8 that seem to lack common sense and want to destroy it  
 9 again.

10 As I stood looking at the Collier/Hoover  
 11 preliminary master plan over on our left this evening,  
 12 it says it will bring jobs over time. I think we've  
 13 been waiting for time in Homestead since 1992.

14 That's right. I've listened. This is not  
 15 mean to be rude, but I heard park superintendents  
 16 become aviation experts tonight and I've listened to  
 17 residents from the very expensive rich areas of the  
 18 Florida Keys become environmental experts, and last  
 19 but certainly not least I've listened to Commissioner  
 20 Sorenson speak, saying something that sounded  
 21 outlandishly. Who has she been taking to lately?  
 22 (Inaudible.)

23 I think we all in the room know this is a no  
 24 brainer. We need the airport. We need the jobs.

25 Thank you.

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1 000051 FRANK NERO: My name is Frank Nero. I am  
 2 president of the Beacon Council. I have prepared  
 3 remarks that I'll give as attachments. I am here  
 4 representing the Beacon Council which is an economic  
 5 development agency.  
 6 Homestead Air Force Base was realigned on  
 7 March 31, 1994. Prior to this official date, the Air  
 8 Force Base we all know was severely damaged by  
 9 Hurricane Andrew. Following that Hurricane, community  
 10 leaders undertook a mayor study to determine the best  
 11 need for Homestead Air Force Base. That study, funded  
 12 by the U.S. Department of Defense, managed by the  
 13 Beacon Council, utilized proof from a broad base of  
 14 South Miami citizens.  
 15 Let me also point out that it is currently  
 16 the local community's official plan, and according to  
 17 the Pratt Procedures, it does have some standing.  
 18 The conclusion and recommendation was to  
 19 develop Homestead Air Force Base as a dual use  
 20 military/civilian regional reliever airport. The  
 21 basic premise was that air cargo capacity at Miami  
 22 International Airport would be reached during the 21st  
 23 Century. Homestead Air Force Base would serve as a  
 24 compliment to air traffic.  
 25 The aviation industry is expected to

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1 establish a Homestead Regional aircraft maintenance.  
 2 In addition, aviation education, training were also  
 3 included. The economic benefit would include above  
 4 average wages, relatively large employment and  
 5 relatively large revenue, leading to large employment.  
 6 Those forecasts were accurate. In 1992  
 7 twenty-six point five million passengers used MIA. By  
 8 1998 thirty-four million, a twenty-eight percent  
 9 increase. Passengers are forecast to reach forty-eight  
 10 million in 2005.  
 11 Likewise, the total number of air cargo was  
 12 one point one million in '92, and nearly two million  
 13 tons in 1998 and forecast to reach forty in 2005.  
 14 A recently conducted study by the aviation  
 15 department says we are going to lose our aviation  
 16 industry here in Miami-Dade County. They are going to  
 17 move elsewhere.  
 18 I chaired the base realignment study in  
 19 Jacksonville and I can tell you that if we don't have  
 20 a commercial airport here, not only will we not have  
 21 the jobs here, we are going to lose the jobs we  
 22 currently have, because they can't expand. They are  
 23 going to move out of this area. They are going to  
 24 move completely out of this town.  
 25 I urge you to adopt the recommendation for

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1 the commercial airport for Homestead.  
 2 COLONEL McSHANE: Maria Brackett. Nathalie  
 3 Grignal, Art Fernandez, William Riley, Sheri Lucas,  
 4 Alberto Notes.  
 5 000052 NATHALIE GRIGNAL: I am Nathalie Grignal. I  
 6 am a stay at home mom. I live in Megan's Place.  
 7 People mentioned the Opa-Locka Airport as an option,  
 8 and I thought that was ridiculous. I don't know what  
 9 can be done if Homestead is not chosen. Since I live  
 10 two miles from there, I guess I would be affected by  
 11 the increase in that traffic. Being about fifteen  
 12 minutes from MIA, I see a few airplanes overhead, but  
 13 I was puzzled by the option that was brought up by  
 14 Collier/Hoover to turn it more into a tourist  
 15 attraction and everything toward the tourist industry.  
 16 I am wondering how that's going to work, if  
 17 tourists fly by here and don't drive sometimes. How  
 18 are they going to come if MIA is full and Opa-Locka is  
 19 too narrow for a 47 to 57. They can't expand beyond.  
 20 That's my question.  
 21 000053 ART FERNANDEZ: I know it's getting late.  
 22 You are getting sand in your eyes. I know you have  
 23 been hearing repetitious stuff, but I represent a  
 24 local union of two thousand members. I've lived in  
 25 Miami-Dade over five years.

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1 During Hurricane Andrew I came down to  
 2 Goulds and Naranja. We put up over five hundred roofs  
 3 on the destroyed homes. I was glad to do it. We need  
 4 jobs. I represent two thousand members like I told  
 5 you, from seventeen crafts.  
 6 I love quality of life. I just have a new  
 7 grandson. I believe in that Florida life for him, and  
 8 I believe -- I am a fisherman. I am a golfer. I am  
 9 an advocate, but we need jobs for our people.  
 10 Thank you.  
 11 000054 WILLIAM RILEY: Good evening. My name is  
 12 William Riley, with the International Brotherhood of  
 13 Electrical Contractors. You've heard several things.  
 14 You've heard in the year 2015 we are going to be out  
 15 of airport space. You heard the overwhelming majority  
 16 of elected officials speak to you about supporting  
 17 Dade County and its proposal for a commercial  
 18 airport. You also heard there is no other viable site  
 19 for this airport.  
 20 The jobs that you also heard about tonight  
 21 that are needed will be created by the airport for the  
 22 people of Homestead, as well as Dade County, and we  
 23 would ask that you support the Miami-Dade County  
 24 proposed commercial airport.  
 25 Thank you.

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1 000055 RAUL HERNANDEZ: My name is Raul Hernandez.  
 2 I live in Miami Lakes. I am not going to take that  
 3 much of your time. I know we are tired. If we have  
 4 Opa-Locks as a reliever airport, that's going to be a  
 5 tragedy, because that airport is surrounded by a lot  
 6 of people. One aircraft can wipe out half of Miami  
 7 Lakes. The opposite side, to do this in Homestead, we  
 8 have lost a lot of jobs and we need the money. We  
 9 need to do it.

Thank you.

11 COLONEL McSHANE: Alberto Notis, James  
 12 Willis, Laurie Hourn, Jaime Brown, Eric Greenwood,  
 13 Mario J. Garcia-Serra and Felix Rodriguez.

14 000056 JAIME BROWN: My name is Jaime Brown. I am  
 15 really -- I am looking at the room and there are just  
 16 a few vocal environmentalists here. Then it dawned on  
 17 me that most of them had a really long way to drive  
 18 home.

19 I've been really privileged over the last  
 20 few months to work with the folks of Homestead and  
 21 Florida City trying to get some jobs in the community,  
 22 and professionally it's one of the most meaningful  
 23 things that I've worked on. These are the best facts,  
 24 thirty-eight thousand jobs for this area and one  
 25 billion dollars in your pocket. That's what is in the

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study.

The other thing that's forgotten up in  
 Washington is that the people who are most impacted by  
 what has happened are low income and minority  
 residents of this town, and the decision-makers and  
 the environmental activists that are heavily involved  
 in the project, they are uncomfortable when they hear  
 that, but that's the truth.

Yesterday I had the privilege of meeting  
 with one of the review leaders. She told me about a  
 teenage boy who is weeping in front of her because he  
 can't find a job to help his family out. These are  
 the kids that turn to drugs and crime, because they  
 are not allowed to have a job. No kid should think  
 they have no choices because their life is done.  
 That's what this is about. Don't say you've made your  
 presence know tonight, when there are people who are  
 making a decision about what you say. They are  
 hearing you and that's what matters.

20 000355 ANDREW ROSE: My name is Andrew Rose. I've  
 21 been in this community since 1940. I have comments  
 22 that relate to the report, the SEIS, because I feel  
 23 that there hasn't been a true flight operations  
 24 analysis of the effect of the aviation activity we had  
 25 in the Homestead airport.

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The example presented on the reports, not  
 one of them talked to the aviation community  
 directly. I challenge anybody to put that many  
 airplanes on a single runway in a twenty-four hour  
 period anywhere in the world.

If you mix light airplanes with the  
 heaviest, we haven't talked about this, only twelve  
 percent of that figure is cargo airplanes. Everything  
 else is passenger and general aviation and military.  
 That's not in the report.

As an example, if two heavy airplanes take  
 off one after the other, at any airport, generally  
 speaking, there is a three minute separation. If you  
 put little airplanes in the mix, it is going to be  
 more than that, because the jet wash from the big  
 airplanes will turn that airplane upside down and tear  
 it apart in some cases.

The other aspect of the report that I have a  
 problem with, the noise diagrams and what have you,  
 are not relating. In other words, they don't tell at  
 what altitude and how that affects other things in the  
 area, whether it's reflected off building or what have  
 you. You can take off some airports in town and it  
 bounces all across town. These are little things that  
 I point out.

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I would like to comment on Katie Sorenson.

Ms. Sorenson's comment about no airline would come  
 down here to have service, I don't think she has ever  
 heard of Southwest. Southwest flies out Dallas,  
 Texas, and the big airport is forty miles away, which  
 is further than Miami airport.

As it relates to the movements -- my time is up.

Thank you.

COLONEL McSHANE: Your name?

000057 MARIO GARCIA-SERRA: Good evening. My name  
 is Mario Garcia-Serra. First, I'd like to thank you  
 and your colleagues for being with us this evening. I  
 am speaking for both sides when I say we are very  
 thankful.

I want to make clear that everyone here,  
 like myself, young, still in school, hopes to raise  
 our future families in Miami-Dade County and support  
 Homestead Area Force Base.

Why? All the facts and consideration point  
 to the Air Force Base as being the obvious location  
 for a relieve airport. Those of us who have traveled  
 out of Miami have faced agonizing lines, frustrating  
 traffic, and we realize that MIA is at full capacity  
 now and needs to be relieved soon.

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COMMENTS

1 Homestead is the best place for this airport
2 for many reasons, and having the busiest Air Force
3 Base in the United States for a period of thirty years
4 it has proven it is an environmentally sound decision.

5 Lastly, the integrity of the base closure
6 must be protected. Let's bring the airport to
7 Homestead Air Force Base.

8 Thank you very much.

9 000058 FELIX RODRIGUEZ: Good evening. My name is
10 Felix Rodriguez. I live basically right outside of
11 Miami International Airport. Sometimes I wonder not
12 if, but when. MIA is in the heart of the City of
13 Miami. Unlike other airports, MIA does not have a
14 runway that's adjacent to a body of water and does not
15 allow pilots to bring the planes over water.

16 Flight 592 went down in the Everglades
17 instead of a populous area, and a terrible tragedy did
18 not result in a catastrophic loss of life.

19 All of these factors only lead me to one
20 conclusion, that MIA desperately needs relief. As to
21 the proposals, I am not an expert. I am not an
22 environmentalist. I am not -- I can only attest to
23 what I see with my own eyes and what I can gather from
24 the news media.

25 In today's Miami Herald an editorial was

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1 written, and it said that it must be recognized that
2 whatever redevelopment occurs will include an
3 airport. The Air Force's strip is up and running.

4 With that said, the Collier proposal offers
5 environmental friendly golf. Of course, as I said
6 before, I am not an expert, but it makes more common
7 sense to conclude that the golf course resource might
8 bring twenty thousand jobs per year.

9 What many people don't realize is that no
10 matter what happens, the Air Force, rightfully so,
11 uses the runway. I can just imagine coming up to the
12 first tee on the golf course and playing on the green
13 and all of a sudden you have an F-16 over your head.
14 We have the same problem with a business complex next
15 to the airport. It is not a good idea either. Ask
16 the people who survived when Fine Air came crashing
17 down.

18 I apologize in advance. I am not an
19 environmentalist, but it is better any day of the week
20 than a plane crashing over my house. The most logical
21 and rational conclusion that one can reach is that
22 Homestead Air Reserve Base should be redeveloped as a
23 commercial airport. It will bring thousands of jobs,
24 over one million dollars in revenue.

25 I implore you not to delay this any longer.

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1 COLONEL McSHANE: Last call for Eric
2 Greenwood.

3 Next several names are Raul Hernandez,
4 Denise Gomez, Javier Herrera, Brad Sewell and Ana
5 Palma and Ana Marie Castle-Bray.

6 Who do we have first?

7 000059 JAVIER HERRERA: Javier Herrera. I am
8 speaking on behalf of the younger generation, who will
9 be receiving the benefits, by saying that this
10 commercial airport in the base will be viable.

11 The Collier plan will provide jobs, but
12 twenty-four thousand less jobs than the airport will
13 provide, which is at least six hundred fifty million
14 dollars less than the airport.

15 Obviously the Collier/Hoover is not a plan
16 for recovery. A commercial airport seems to be the
17 more viable answer to the issue.

18 Thank you.

19 000060 ANA PALMA: Hello, my name is Ana Palma. I
20 am in favor of the airport, and I think it's time that
21 we provide jobs for our community.

22 Thank you.

23 000061 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Denise. I am in
24 favor of the airport. I just think thirty-eight
25 thousand jobs is a good idea. Think about how many

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1 people that are unemployed will have a job, and how
2 many more kids will be able to eat off these jobs. I
3 think this plan will save a lot of lives.

4 Thank you.

5 000062 BRAD SEWELL: My name is Brad Sewell. I am
6 an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense
7 Council. I want to focus on the SEIS and talk about
8 what is in the SEIS, and have a discussion about it.

9 The information in the SEIS and the
10 conclusion that can be drawn from the SEIS and could
11 be drawn from the information in the SEIS, people need
12 to realize that because of conflicts with Miami
13 International to the north, the planes from Homestead
14 have to fly lower for longer than they otherwise
15 would. The altitude of the planes in this area will
16 be fairly low.

17 As said by several speakers this evening,
18 that's quite a few dozens of flights over various
19 locations in the area. For example, in the Biscayne
20 National Park they've estimated one hundred five
21 flights a day, at an altitude of two thousand to four
22 thousand. At this distance a commercial jet sounds
23 like the equivalent of a lawnmower or New York City
24 train. As far out as Elliott Key the jets will sound
25 like a garbage disposal. Think about that.

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Also, the proposed plan area will increase pollution in Biscayne Bay. The airport will also significantly increase into the bay, things like carcinogens and hydrocarbons.

It sounds like an awful thing. The development of an airport will destroy thousands of acres of adjacent land.

Now, that's the information. What conclusions can be drawn? That's where we see the various agencies and federal government going the separate ways. You need to recognize that the SEIS put forth their conclusion, and that the FAA is in the business of developing airports and insuring that as many planes as possible can fly out of here, so think of their agenda.

The Department of Interior, which discussed the environmental impact and the preferred alternatives, they are the steward of national resources in the environment of South Dade and the national parks. Think about who you wish to believe.

The FAA's conclusion is that there is no noise problem from the airport. You might question that. The noise level, the FAA works to protect you from the sound made by a dishwasher next to you, think about having a barbecue. Do you want to perpetually

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hear the noise of a dishwasher? That's the sound FAA wants to protect you from, not the natural park.

Think carefully about this decision and we suggest that you seriously consider the various alternatives.

Thank you.

000063 ANA MARIE CASTLE-BRAY: Good evening. My name is Ana Marie Bray. I was born and raised in Miami-Dade County, and I wanted to say in favor of the proposed action, during school, I always fly out of Fort Lauderdale, simply because it was impossible to get a flight out of Miami, and the flights that we were able to get were extremely expensive, much more so than flying out of Fort Lauderdale. Every time we had to go back and forth, I made the track up to Fort Lauderdale so I can fly.

The need for a reliever airport is nothing new. It is something that we knew for a long time. A couple of suggestions have been put forth with respect to which alternative is possible.

With respect to the airport, I am going to follow up on some of the things that Felix said earlier. With respect to accidents and potential problems with the Opa-Locka Airport, it's in a very heavily residential area and has a great deal of

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problems.

When the Department of the Interior conducted the original SEIS in 1994, Opa-Locka was not even mentioned as a possible alternative. In the SEIS, reasons were given why that was so. The first reason was that Opa-Locka Airport, its longest runway, even considering all possible expansions and extensions, it can't accommodate non-stop, long haul service.

The second reason, and probably the most important reason, is the air space constraints. The airport is located between Miami International Airport and Fort Lauderdale Airport. There will be a lot of, I guess, airplanes crossing in the same space at the same time, which presents a very large problem for air traffic controller, trying to make sure there aren't any accidents, when you have such a small area of space and three airports trying to fly constantly. It creates a great deal of problems, and they are specifically stated in the most recent SEIS.

Additionally, this is where I am going to follow up on what was said before me. It's a very, very heavily residential area, probably one of the most residential areas in the entire County, and to have flights leaving from that airport is not really

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possible.

So finally I'll just say, it's clear that Miami-Dade County needs another airport. That's been known for a long time. It's nothing new. It's equally clear that Homestead, not Opa-Locka, is the best location for that airport.

Thank you.

COLONEL McSHANE: I am going to call Raul Hernandez and Denise Gomez. Was that Denise that spoke after Ana Palma or was that somebody else? I don't have Denise here.

The next name is Martin Dendaw and he was here earlier, but he had to leave. He's left a statement with me. It will be included in the record and given equal weight as any.

I want to remind everybody that's here, if you don't get a chance to speak tonight, you can make written comments.

I can't pronounce the first name, Oickia Lucas, from Leisure City, Florida. Anybody named Lucas? Maybe they are gone.

Next name is Alex Heckler, Michael Stevens, Mary Finlan, Gary Beck, Adams Koslofsky.

000064 ALEX HECKLER: Ladies and gentlemen and distinguished panel. I am a student. I am a graduate

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COMMENTS

1 student at the University of Miami Law School, and  
2 Miami-Dade County citizen. I am before you this  
3 evening to publicly place my opinion on the record.  
4 I've been here for over five hours, and the reason is  
5 because I want to share my thoughts, that will  
6 hopefully be included during the decision-making  
7 process.

8 I am pro environment. I enjoy and respect  
9 our national parks and wildlife. However, I am in  
10 strong support of economic development in South  
11 Miami-Dade County. I am in favor of an airport  
12 compatible with our environment. That's Homestead  
13 Regional Airport.

14 As a representative of Miami-Dade County's  
15 younger generation, I urge you to think for the future  
16 and plan accordingly. We must act now.

17 According to the FAA, within the next ten  
18 years Miami-Dade County will need a reliever airport.  
19 If we do not plan now, by the year 2006 will be too  
20 late. I'll be twenty-nine at that time. I would like  
21 to be included as part of the thirty-eight thousand  
22 jobs and one billion dollars in income.

23 Also, something that a lot of people might  
24 not realize is that when we are talking about the jobs  
25 and the one billion dollars, it's not just the

1 airport. It's all the folks who have come here that  
2 own businesses around the airport, and the restaurants  
3 around the airport. That's very important, because  
4 the people who are struggling today, who live in  
5 Homestead and surrounding areas, will gain relief from  
6 this, and they will develop themselves economically.

7 I want to bring up a word that I haven't  
8 heard this evening which I feel is very important.  
9 That's co-existing. When I looked at the Miami-Dade  
10 County proposal, I saw a picture of a bird and that  
11 picture is an example of co-existence.

12 Over the last fifty years, human wildlife  
13 and our national parks have co-existed and that's very  
14 important. People don't realize that.

15 I have a niece who is seven years old, and  
16 will be seventeen years old when Miami-Dade County  
17 needs a reliever airport. I want her to be able to  
18 benefit from this, and my family and all the folks  
19 here.

20 I wanted to remind everybody, for our  
21 future, please act now and do not delay anymore, and  
22 thank you everybody for waiting five and half hours.

23 00065 ADAM KOSLOFSKY: Good evening. My name is  
24 Adam Koslofsky. I live in Key Largo, Florida, Monroe  
25 County.

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1 I have the opportunity to speak to you today  
2 on behalf of the thousands of members of Reef Relief  
3 of South Florida, based in Key West, Florida. Our  
4 organization is dedicated to preserve and protect the  
5 living coral eco system. Therefore, we are  
6 particularly concerned over the environmental impact  
7 of this proposed activity, the conversion of the  
8 surplus Homestead Air Force Base property into a  
9 commercial airport, would have upon the coral reef eco  
10 system of South Florida, including the people that  
11 live near it and visit it annually.

12 The impasse is air pollution, noise, wetland  
13 destruction and stormwater are an inequitable and  
14 unavoidable risk of a commercial airport and  
15 facilities.

16 The result will be a deterioration of the  
17 environment, quality of the coral reef and the eco  
18 system that acts as a critical habitat to endangered  
19 and otherwise protected wildlife.

20 The impact to the integrity and Everglades  
21 National Park and the Florida Keys National Marine  
22 Sanctuary by this federal action are unacceptable and  
23 in direct conflict with the purposes of their  
24 creation.

25 In addition, you'll find out that a

1 commercial airport, although it is described in the  
2 SEIS as incentive to boost to local economy, would  
3 have long term negative impact and affect future  
4 activities associated with the region, particularly  
5 eco tourism.

6 As an environmental organization, we would  
7 prefer an alternative in the SEIS, that is that the  
8 federal government retain ownership of the remaining  
9 one thousand six hundred thirty-two acres of the  
10 former Homestead Air Force Base and do nothing with  
11 the land.

12 We therefore strongly recommend that the Air  
13 Force and the Federal Aviation Administration should  
14 use other alternatives for economic development of a  
15 comprehensive sustainable development plan.

16 Thank you very much.

17 00066 MARY FINLAN: My name is Mary Finlan. I live  
18 in the City of Homestead. I am on the  
19 Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce.

20 Regarding the survey that Katie Sorenson  
21 mentioned earlier, in July of 1997 South Dade  
22 residents in the zip code area south of 216 Street and  
23 207 Avenue, thirteen thousand nine hundred residential  
24 numbers, I would only be asking them a single  
25 question, "Do you support economic redevelopment of

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1 Homestead Air Force Base into a commercial airport?  
2 69.3 percent of those people said: Yes.

3 As a professional survey that was done by a  
4 valid corporation, and if the local consensus is of  
5 any value to this committee, that's the local  
6 consensus. I am going to leave this with you for the  
7 record, this survey here.

8 We all know we need tourism. We know our  
9 economy is bad, and we are not going to shut up.  
10 We'll take care of our environment. We don't need to  
11 be told that by people from the outside.

12 000067 MARK RIPP: I'll be real quick. I've a got a  
13 couple of questions about the redevelopment of the Air  
14 Force Base. Do you think or do you accept the  
15 Collier/Hoover plan, and everybody keeps saying that  
16 the administrating government, they are going to trade  
17 the federal government their oil and mineral rights.  
18 Folks, you know, realistically I don't see you doing  
19 that. That is not a win, win.

20 This community needs jobs bad. In the SEIS,  
21 Biscayne National Park airplanes flying are not near  
22 as bad as the landfill that's been expanded three  
23 times right up against Biscayne National Park.

24 Thank you.  
25 000068 DR. JOSEPH G. SEWELL: Good evening, Mr.

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1 Chair, those of you that are here tonight. I am Dr.  
2 Joseph Sewell of the Baptist Church, a man of faith.  
3 We've heard a lot tonight about the environment, but I  
4 would like in this political climate to quote  
5 something that I found from the Father of the  
6 Constitution, the Declaration of Independence.

7 It says "All hold these truths to be  
8 self-evident that all men are created equal, that we  
9 have legal rights to the pursue of life, prosperity."

10 We men have been enabled with rights. It  
11 said we humans. It doesn't say we birds or we fish or  
12 we pigeons have rights, but we humans have been  
13 allowed the legal rights to the pursue of life. Human  
14 life is very important.

15 I am pastor of a church in this area. Some  
16 come from Princeton, from Ferrine, from Goulds, from  
17 Florida City.

18 I see these mothers, we want to put them  
19 back to work. Okay. They are on welfare. There are  
20 no jobs. You train them to work. Have you ever  
21 looked at a mother that brings her child to a day care  
22 that I have in my church, and she says, "Pastor, give  
23 my baby some milk, because I don't have milk."

24 A man that has a skill, but there is no job.  
25 You are trying to service these people, and you see

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WEST PALM BEACH

1 the hopelessness in their eyes.

2 This gentleman, the superintendent of parks,  
3 he says, "Go to Miami International Airport. What do  
4 you see?"

5 I want you to come in my community and see  
6 some things. See the hopelessness, see the despair,  
7 see the look in folks' eyes when they have a skill,  
8 but they don't have jobs.

9 We need jobs. We need jobs. The people  
10 need jobs. We have people with degrees that can't  
11 work. We have people that are skilled. We have  
12 single mothers with children.

13 Please, listen to the heartbeat of this  
14 community. We need jobs in the City of Homestead.  
15 Thank you.

16 000069 STEVE SAPP: Thank you, Colonel. My name is  
17 Steve Sapp. I am president of Dade County Farm  
18 Bureau. We have three thousand members in our  
19 organization. If you look at the demographics of our  
20 agriculture area, there are eighty-three thousand  
21 acres of agriculture grid in the state of Florida in  
22 the most recent study.

23 I have to tell you that one of the things  
24 that upsets me most about public hearings is that  
25 there appears to be division in our community. I hate

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1 that more than I hate anything else in the community.  
2 I rather see people work and iron out the situation,  
3 whether it's the politicians who comes and take a  
4 position or whether it's the people in the community.

5 We support the commercial development of the  
6 airport at Homestead Air Force Base and we support it  
7 for two reasons. Number 1, that will have a great  
8 effect on the community. Our farm community, we are  
9 smart enough to look at the future and realize that  
10 Cuba is going to be a major market one day, as well as  
11 the Caribbean and South America and Mexico. It is  
12 very clear the direction that our community is taking  
13 and we as agriculturers need and understand the  
14 airport is going to be critical to the future on  
15 agriculture.

16 Number 2, and more importantly, because that  
17 first reason is pretty selfish, for the agricultural  
18 industry to sustain itself and continue.

19 The second reason is a community reason.  
20 Our community is in trouble. The infrastructure of  
21 our community is falling apart around us. Our health  
22 care -- our hospital has lost money for over seven  
23 years in a row, over seven million dollars. We are  
24 not going to replace that seven million dollars unless

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1 we have economic development. We need a good  
2 transportation system down here. There is very little  
3 good planning that is going on in our area of South  
4 Dade. We already have traffic problems, but nobody is  
5 saying, "Let's fix it." They are closing their eyes.

6 We look to our economy and we say to  
7 ourselves, we have a fifteen percent unemployment rate  
8 down here. The second reason for us to support the  
9 redevelopment of the air base is for the community's  
10 needs. We look at our neighbors, whether it's in  
11 Florida City or Homestead, Naranja or Goulds, and we  
12 look at them as our friends and our neighbors and we  
13 say, "Seven years is enough. It's time to stand up,  
14 and bring the jobs to the community that two  
15 presidents promised to us."

16 Thank you very much.  
17 000070 BRUCE DRUM: Good evening. My name is Bruce  
18 Drum. I am here tonight as a public servant. I've  
19 been working for Dade County for almost twenty-four  
20 years. I've been in aviation for twenty-eight years.  
21 I've been following the airlines for about thirty-five  
22 years.

23 I am assistant to the aviation director  
24 commissioner, so I am offering a little bit to this  
25 conversation from an aviation standpoint. I think I

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1 have something to put forth here today. Basically the  
2 commerce is two separate issues, if I may.

3 I am encouraged by the process, but one of  
4 my jobs was being chair of the Noise Task Force  
5 fifteen years ago, under the direction of the county  
6 manager. I feared at first, and tonight's meeting  
7 reminded me of that process.

8 What we did at Miami International Airport  
9 is put together thirty-something representatives of  
10 the communities around Miami, along with aviation  
11 experts, to try to come together and find a common  
12 goal of reducing the noise impact to our communities.  
13 Almost an oxymoron, how to you find a middle ground to  
14 something diametrically opposed, but I need to tell  
15 you a story, because there is a happy ending.

16 Despite those differences, despite those  
17 polarized positions, we managed to find, in two years'  
18 hard work, every month we'd come to a common position  
19 that we have submitted to the FAA. We are now doing a  
20 tube test for both east flow and west flow that will  
21 reduce the noise levels.

22 The aircrafts will fly as much as possible  
23 over water and non-residential areas. We are proud of  
24 that establishment. I think what we have to learn  
25 here about the noise issue is -- let me point out

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1 there has been a lot of misinformation, but from the  
2 aviation standpoint, some of the representations about  
3 noise, this is a starting point.

4 One of the things that we can do -- one of  
5 things that we are required to do is to put together a  
6 noise abatement plan.

7 One last comment I will leave you with, the  
8 airport has been banged around here tonight. I think  
9 we have a lot to develop. Remember one thing, if we  
10 do not get this airport, in my professional opinion,  
11 we are going to run out of capacity in South Florida  
12 and fifteen years from now, when we do run out of  
13 capacity, when you are on that airplane or that  
14 relative is on that airplane in Miami, and the pilot  
15 comes out and says you are thirty-two for take-off, I  
16 want you to remember this night.

17 We have a very important decision to make in  
18 this community and I salute the process.

19 000071 JONATHAN ULLMAN: My name is Jonathan Ullman.  
20 I am a South Florida Everglades representative for the  
21 National Sierra Club. I am at this meeting today. I  
22 am here to protect Homestead and the people who visit  
23 the national parks from all over this country from  
24 hideous plans which have been concocted by special  
25 interest, and what we are going to do is we are going

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1 to expose this plan to the rest of the country.

2 We are going to explain to them how  
3 Miami-Dade County has tried to push a commercial  
4 airport a mile and a half from a national park, eight  
5 and a half miles from another national park, which the  
6 Clinton-Gore administration is trying to restore for  
7 seven point eight billion dollars.

8 Why would the tax payers want to pay seven  
9 point eight billion dollars? Everglades National Park  
10 each year will have to be subjected to constant  
11 flights. How are you going to explain to those  
12 visitors that you sold those two national parks to a  
13 special group in Miami-Dade County, and we all saw the  
14 politicians that paraded here and took away all of the  
15 time from the public.

16 Those politicians are not representing the  
17 people. Those politicians are representing this  
18 Company. We are now going to start the campaign  
19 throughout this country. We already showed this issue  
20 in thirty cities throughout the United States. It  
21 will continue, and believe me, this travesty will not  
22 continue.

23 Thank you.  
24 000072 TRISHA MORAN: My name is Trisha Moran. I  
25 represent the Keys Academy of Marine Science. I am a

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lifetime resident of Key Largo, and I am not rich. I am a teacher. I have brought with me here tonight some of my students, and I am reflecting not only on my own personal views, but their views as well.

The curriculum of our school includes a section on preserving our environment, and we believe that this is a perfect way to teach our children what their future should look like. We do not want that future to be clouded by the sounds of airplanes. We vehemently oppose an airport in Homestead.

I have enjoyed much peace and quiet since the Air Force Base was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew. I have been able to go to Molasses Reef and not hear an F-16 fly overhead as I am trying to enjoy the waves. That is a silence that to me and to my students is precious.

I find it very interesting that no one has talked about the water park that has been proposed for Miami-Dade County. I also found it very interesting that no one has mentioned the Miami-Dade Homestead Motor Sport Complex which has also provided numerous jobs. The latest addition is Wall-Mart, another example of jobs provided to the Homestead area.

I do not care if there are two hundred thirty thousand flights a year. I do not care if

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there are one hundred thousand flights or fifty thousand. Either way is too much. It disturbs my peace. It disturbs the peace of the endangered species like the salt water crocodile, who most people in the United States don't know still exists here.

I resent it when groups like the Farm Bureau, who make it a habit of attacking endangered species, and this is not just a Miami Dade county issue. This is a Monroe County issue and a Key Largo issue.

My students believe that jobs are not as important as our environment and I am very upset that no one values these children and their ideas.

Thank you.

000073 HOWARD BEHAR: Hello, my name is Howard Behar. I am citizen of Miami-Dade County. What I believe is that absolutely it is critical in the decision making process for the Federal government to convey this former Air Force Base over to either the County or a viable developer. Remember that the property is being conveyed in fee simple. That is a very powerful thing.

There is only one proposal throughout the entire SEIS that even mentions that they have a firm contract, a commitment to do what they indicate they

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will do in the SEIS, and that's to build an airport. All the other proposals we've seen are mere proposals. We have not seen one contract, one firm commitment by either the Collier or the Hoover proposals or any of the other proposals.

The South Florida Management District indicates they will build what they intend to bill. What I believe is that this is a Trojan Horse. We do not know what this commitment is. All we know is that the photographs -- that have been removed -- is the proposal.

Now, assuming that they want to do as they indicate in SEIS, which is to build this RV park/golf course, I believe that all the things we discussed here tonight -- tremendous input from everybody -- indicates a very simple economic impact.

Number 1, the least job intensive. That's a quote from the SEIS. Seventeen thousand jobs from the thirty-eight thousand. Least economic revenue, two hundred sixty versus eight billion.

Most important, however, and I would like to close on this point, it is a tremendous loss that would be suffered by Miami-Dade County in losing the opportunity to take a property fee simple and generate an economic boom to Miami-Dade County rather than the

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property being turned over to private hands for private developers, for private profit, as opposed to profit that's realized by every citizen of Miami-Dade County.

Thank you.

000074 KAREN SALAS: My name is Karen Salas. I am also a citizen of Miami-Dade County. About a week and a half ago I read a letter that was written to the Miami Herald by someone claiming that the airport would be the most damaging alternative in the long run, because how could somebody enjoy the parks and the beauty of them if they had to see it with a commercial aircraft flying overhead. That made me wonder: Do all the airport opponents realize that there is going to be an airport base there?

The Homestead Air Force has been active for decades. For years there have been airplanes flying overhead.

The SEIS itself reported that the maximum noise level would be from military aircrafts, not commercial aircrafts. Regardless of what alternative is used, either way military aircrafts will still be flying over the air.

In addition, the SEIS confirmed that the airport will be environmentally compatible. The

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important question is, which alternative provides the most benefits. Miami-Dade has the highest unemployment in the state and one of the highest unemployment in the County. The SEIS found that the airport proposal will provide over twenty thousand more jobs than the Collier alternative. That's a total of thirty-eight thousand jobs.

So which alternative provides most benefits? I say the airport.

Opponents of the airport asked to have the SEIS report done, and they have gotten it done. Now the report itself says that the airport is environmentally compatible. What else do we need to do to get our airport?

000075 CONNIE CHAPELL: My name is Connie Chapell. I am here as a parent, a community person from upper Key Largo and as an educator. I am the director of the Keys Academy of Marine Science, and really, you know, I wish that Miami politician were here, because I grew up across from the Opa-Locka Airport in 1966 and I think of what is so beautiful about this area, so much of it's agriculture, the clean air and all the beautiful surroundings that you have, and then I think that thirty years from now it will be interesting to see if this area would look like Opa-Locka Airport and

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the area surrounding Opa-Locka Airport.

It really concerns me that very few people here tonight have addressed education.

I think that education and jobs come hand in hand. If we would spend more time and truly educate our children, educate the public, there are a lot of mixed emotions and mixed messages about what should be done with that land. I look at the kids' future and I look thirty years from now and is Homestead and the area around the airport going to look like Opa-Locka? If it does, it's really sad because South Florida has very little to offer people that come to it, outside of the water, tourism, what is around us, and I think that we really need to look at taking care of that, preserving that.

Key Largo is the second largest reef system in the world, the only one connected to the continent of North America, yet we are so quickly to do something that would affect that.

Fifty years ago our visibility was a lot greater than it is today. Our kids twenty years from now won't be able to see the reef. I think there needs to be compromise. I think that further studies need to be done.

When I look as an educator at the

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Collier/Hoover project, versus an airport, as an educator I hope that we are teaching children to go for professional jobs, jobs in agriculture, aquaculture, biomedicine, biochemical, not loading and unloading planes and I think South Florida needs to care about that.

I know we need jobs, but I also think that we should look at preserving our environment and finding the best alternative, not just a fix for the quick short term, but for the future of South Florida and putting on the map something positive and not something negative.

Thank you.

000076 BARBARA LANGE: My name is Barbara Lange. I am with the Sierra Club. The SEIS assumes that the stormwater management plan for Homestead is going to work, as promoted by Mayor Penelas and Dade County. Sierra challenged in state court the plan on the grounds that the County's own expert stated the plan was inadequate to handle large storms. If the system does not perform adequately, the toxic chemicals and other pollutants, that the SEIS assumes this will never reach the bay will reach the bay.

The SEIS states that they are highly concerned about the stormwaters plan retention and

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distention, because you attract birds. The site currently has a bird strike risk that appears to be four to five times the national average.

The SEIS assumes that the proposed airport will be responsible for only two thousand of the ten to twenty thousand vacant lands in South Dade County that will be lost to development in the next fifteen years. This is an extremely important finding. It is not specifically supported and it appears insupportable.

The airport is responsible for closer to fifty percent of the new development or the development that occurs outside the current EVD line.

The SEIS fails to consider canals to the north and to the south of Mallory and Princeton which will certainly bear some impact on the secondary development associated with the airport.

Because Biscayne Bay is considered oversaturated with nutrients, any increase should be considered significant. While recognizing the example that the use of hazardous materials in South Dade will increase twelve times when the airport is developed, the Draft SEIS assumes the proposition that pollutants throughout the area will remain unchanged.

Thank you very much.

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1 COLONEL McSHANE: COLONEL McSHANE: William  
 2 Delgado.  
 3 000077 WILLIAM DELGADO: Good evening. My name is  
 4 William Delgado. I represent the Latin Builders  
 5 Association. It's an association that represents six  
 6 hundred firms that are in the construction industry  
 7 here in Dade County.  
 8 I, having a real estate background, can  
 9 share with you that the people in the real estate  
 10 profession say that the secret to a successful  
 11 development is location, location, location. If I  
 12 heard anything here tonight, from Hialeah to  
 13 Sweetwater to Key Biscayne to Florida City and finally  
 14 the Mayor of Homestead and the Mayor of Miami-Dade  
 15 County, the secret word here tonight is jobs, jobs,  
 16 jobs.  
 17 All of our community can benefit from this  
 18 project. This Draft presented here tonight proves  
 19 that we can have a commercial airport in Homestead  
 20 that is thoroughly intune with the environment. For  
 21 those of you elected officials -- they left -- that  
 22 have supported the Collier plan, I guess that they are  
 23 looking at the rich families of West Palm Beach.  
 24 Looking at Dade County, they have enough Hispanic and  
 25 Afro-Americans to be caddies and ground keepers in the

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1 huge golf course. No, thank you. We believe we can  
 2 do better getting jobs in the construction industry or  
 3 a commercial airport.  
 4 You people need to get up to speed and know  
 5 that there is a new champion on the golf courses of  
 6 the United States. His name is Tiger Woods.  
 7 COLONEL McSHANE: Next name is Paul Acosta.  
 8 000078 PAUL ACOSTA: Thank you for this opportunity  
 9 to speak and your patience this evening. I've been a  
 10 resident of Dade County now for thirty years. I here  
 11 pretty much raised down here in the South Dade area,  
 12 grew up fishing in the Florida Bay, grew up fishing in  
 13 Key Largo, grew up fishing off of Biscayne Bay, so I  
 14 cherish those memories. I cherish the environment  
 15 here.  
 16 I also have had many friends, many family  
 17 members that sustained many losses during Hurricane  
 18 Andrew. This community continues to sustain losses.  
 19 Every day that goes by without a development taking  
 20 place on that airport ground is another loss to this  
 21 community.  
 22 The young lady that spoke earlier and she  
 23 mentioned that some of the projects that have come  
 24 down have contributed to this community, I am glad she  
 25 mentioned one, the Homestead Motor Sports Complex.

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1 Some projects have come, but there is an unemployment  
 2 rate of approximately fifteen percent. That's the  
 3 highest in the County, Ladies and Gentlemen.  
 4 What we have before us is a very unique and  
 5 exciting opportunity, but with that opportunity comes  
 6 great responsibility which rests upon a critical  
 7 decision, and that is whether or not we will permit  
 8 the development of a commercial airport here at the  
 9 Homestead Air Force Base.  
 10 It's very simple. When we look at it, it is  
 11 really not that complicated. The first question we  
 12 need to answer: Is there a need for a reliever  
 13 airport? I believe the SEIS report has already spoken  
 14 to that. In fact, much of the testimony tonight here  
 15 indicates that by the year 2006 we will experience  
 16 problems with MIA, which will be exceeding its  
 17 capacity.  
 18 As a resident of Dade County, living here, I  
 19 experienced and I see people constantly within the  
 20 central area of Dade County and northern area, they go  
 21 to Fort Lauderdale. They don't want to fly out of our  
 22 airport. It is too congested. That is today.  
 23 Next question, because I think the first one  
 24 has been answered, we do need a reliever airplane.  
 25 The second question: Where do we put it?

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1 Some of them say, "Put it in Opa-Loocka." I think the  
 2 SEIS answers that question. There is an airline  
 3 crossing concern as well, because of the proximity to  
 4 Fort Lauderdale and MIA. They are concerned about the  
 5 links to the runway. The answer is Homestead. There  
 6 is no doubt about it.  
 7 The economic viability of the airport site  
 8 down here, thirty-eight thousand jobs, when you put  
 9 that in perspective, Miami-Dade County government is  
 10 one of the biggest employers in Dade County, and it  
 11 generates twenty-eight thousand jobs.  
 12 Thank you for your patience.  
 13 000079 MARY NOTES: Well, I am not going to say what  
 14 I thought I would say. I just wanted to say that I  
 15 have become sick and tired this evening of the word  
 16 job. It's been tossed around like motherhood and  
 17 apple pie. I think although we have a lot of talk  
 18 about the Air Force Base, in the back of my mind I  
 19 feel that we have a small group of businessmen and  
 20 folks interested in economic development and a lot of  
 21 those folks are going to make a great deal of money  
 22 out of this, and I wish our friends from Naranja were  
 23 still here.  
 24 I have a nasty feeling at the end of the day  
 25 that most of those folks in Florida City and Naranja

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 1031 MES DAIRY ROAD - SUITE 228 FORT LAUDERDALE

COMMENTS

1 and Goulds will be pretty much where they were before,  
2 and I don't think that this is going to become the  
3 great fantasy they are talking about.

4 I don't know why there hasn't been more talk  
5 about the other jobs available in the other  
6 opportunities. We have heard the term jobs, jobs,  
7 jobs all night, and I would also like to -- the  
8 racial kind of slurs thrown around this evening and I  
9 think the sneering at retirees were very unpleasant.

10 When I was thinking of economic base and the  
11 fact that so many people give up everything, they give  
12 up their home, they put their life savings, and they  
13 have a family, to retire, I think they have as much  
14 value and need to be concerned as any people in  
15 Florida City or anywhere else.

16 I speak as a white middle class woman, and I  
17 don't think that this means I cannot address those  
18 kinds of things because of being accused of being  
19 partisan.

20 I think Florida City officials should be  
21 concerned about the water, quality of the life, as  
22 anybody else. It should be everyone's concern to try  
23 to raise their level of income and not use this  
24 patronizing attitude. I don't want to talk anymore  
25 about jobs, jobs, jobs tonight.

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1 000080 MICHAEL CHENOWETH: Good evening. My name is  
2 Michael Chenoweth. I am president of Friends of the  
3 Everglades. I came here tonight to address the issues  
4 of the draft SEIS. Many of the speakers before me  
5 have been speaking either pro or con on the different  
6 alternatives that have been proposed, and I didn't  
7 know that was what we were here for, but I want to say  
8 that in case there is any question, Friends of the  
9 Everglades is definitely opposed unequivocally to the  
10 commercial airport proposal.

11 I am a lawyer. I am formally also a vice  
12 president of a commuter airline. I am retired from  
13 the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the  
14 SEIS is written in a very clever way, by a pro  
15 development, pro airport consultant firm, to minimize  
16 the impact of this commercial airport. Not only does  
17 it minimize the adverse noise and pollution impact, it  
18 fails to adequately depict the impact a commercial  
19 airport will have on traffic, crime and the quality of  
20 schools among other kids in the vicinity.

21 The SEIS should examine, and it doesn't, the  
22 prior record of Dade County in addressing these  
23 critical issues and the existing commercial airport.  
24 There is a strong likelihood that Dade County's record  
25 of failure in these critical areas be repeated in

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1 Homestead if a commercial airport is built.

2 The SEIS, that purports to support the  
3 protection of the Everglades, endorses a commercial  
4 airport. That lacks believability. The need for jobs  
5 that has been expressed here by proponents of the  
6 proposed action is really a cry for better jobs,  
7 because most of these people already have jobs.

8 You know, there is unemployment, but  
9 certainly most of the people who are standing here in  
10 front of us are well fed and have jobs. The SEIS  
11 needs to address these issues. Those people who put  
12 people ahead of the environment have forgotten that we  
13 humans are at the top of the food chain. That means  
14 we are all dependent on the environment for our  
15 existence.

16 Much to the benefit of our environment in  
17 the south end is the ability to get away from the  
18 noise and the commercial activity. This opportunity  
19 is where the SEIS fails to make it clear. No  
20 consideration is given in the SEIS to building another  
21 runway at Miami International, because the County  
22 doesn't want to. Jobs at any cost is really the  
23 problem that we have to address for the future of the  
24 United States, because when we have the question of  
25 jobs over everything, that's what we are going to be

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1 facing in every issue we do, and we have to come up  
2 with the right answer or our world is not going to be  
3 livable.

4 Thank you.  
5 000081 ROB SKINNER: My name is Rob Skinner. I am  
6 president of the Mangrove Academy Wild League. I  
7 would like to ask the question, how many people in the  
8 room would put a cargo airport near the Grand Canyon?  
9 That's what you are thinking of doing by putting it  
10 near two national parks.

11 If I spoke to somebody in Connecticut or  
12 Maine or Michigan about something like this, because  
13 this is not just a local issue, this is a state and  
14 national issue -- this is a national treasure you are  
15 talking about -- I wonder how many of those people  
16 would agree? "Who is suggesting such a ridiculous  
17 proposal? It's being done, and in Dade County you  
18 expect that.

19 Now, going back about thirty years just for  
20 one second, they had a jetport concept out in the  
21 middle of the Everglades. Thirty years ago they had  
22 to have it out there, because MIA was too crowded back  
23 in the '70s. Every speaker got up and said the same  
24 thing, flight attendants, pilots, port authority, the  
25 mayor, assistant mayor, so we defeated that.

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1 They wanted to have a monorail out there.  
2 The people and conservation groups defeated it. Why?  
3 Because it doesn't make any sense.

4 Thirty years later I've listened, today, to  
5 the same old story, jobs, jobs, jobs. We have to have  
6 jobs. Well, I am sorry.

7 We were one of the founders of Biscayne  
8 National Park. During that time we had a room of  
9 people screaming for a oil refinery and a room of  
10 people screaming for a bridge from Key Biscayne to  
11 Largo, and some people that wanted to pour hot water  
12 into the bay. We defeated every single one of them,  
13 just like we are going to defeat this one way or  
14 another.

15 I have an endorsement by the City of  
16 Opa-Locka Commission stating they would prefer to have  
17 the airport in Opa-Locka. People have said you can't  
18 have it out there. Metro-Dade signed a lease  
19 agreement with Seiko International for eighty million  
20 dollars to Opa-Locka. Our own commissioners were  
21 screaming and yelling earlier in the session. They  
22 were saying we need to have it here, and they are  
23 signing contracts right now that I have in my  
24 briefcase for Opa-Locka.

25 If you want jobs, put the jobs where they

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1 belong, in Opa-Locka and north Dade.

2 Now, going a step further, risking Biscayne  
3 National Park and Everglades National Park, National  
4 Marine Sanctuary and all these are subjected to noise  
5 water and pollution. Let's stop it. If we can't stop  
6 it one way, we are going to take you to court and  
7 we'll tie it up.

8 Thank you.

9 000082 CHARLES ALDEN: Good evening. Thanks for  
10 hanging in there with us this evening. My name is  
11 Charles Alden. I am a twenty-two year resident of  
12 Perrine, smack in the north wall of Hurricane Andrew,  
13 and a member of the American Institute of Certified  
14 Planners, and one of the original corporate members of  
15 the Environmental League of Greater Miami.

16 I've taken some time to carefully review the  
17 supplemental summary of the SEIS. I've taken this  
18 approach because Biscayne Bay National Park and  
19 Everglades National Park are both in unique  
20 unreplaceable, sensitive, natural environments and in  
21 my judgment could be overriding priority of air  
22 protection as a national asset.

23 Now, I am from out of town. I am from  
24 Perrine. It gets even worse than that, because my  
25 older sister and brother-in-law happen to be Yankees

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1 from the north and they happen to be camping this week  
2 and last week in Everglades National Park, and I think  
3 they are really enjoying the solitude of the  
4 Everglades on this vacation, and they'll be back.

5 The tables that I've submitted in my memo go  
6 back and analyze the language of the National Park  
7 Service Act. The fundamental purpose of the act is to  
8 conserve the wildlife within the national park life,  
9 by such means as will leave them unimpaired.

10 The tables that I am submitting in this memo  
11 to the Air Force are extracted from Pages 38 to 53,  
12 and it is mentioned by the two viable alternatives  
13 discussed in the report. I found the report between  
14 thirty-eight and fifty-three to have been rather  
15 complexed, incoherent and it was a real task to  
16 extract from that documents the two sides of  
17 information, so I can compare apples to apples. That  
18 however is being submitted and it's very important.

19 In view of the negative impacts attributable  
20 in the report to the airport alternative, the extent  
21 of those impact upon existing conditions, and also  
22 data performed for a mixed use alternative and the  
23 impact between the alternative in view of my  
24 understanding of the organic act, it is inconceivable  
25 to me that this report would confer the airport

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1 proposal as a proposed action.

2 Clearly the airport alternative should be  
3 prohibited, in favor of some other alternative which  
4 substantially lower adverse impact. This is not a  
5 question of jobs. It's a question of one type of job  
6 versus another type of job.

7 Thank you.

8 000083 BART NOTES: Thanks very much. I want to say  
9 a few things. First of all, President Hoover said the  
10 only problem with capitalism is that it leads to  
11 greed.

12 In these cases we are talking about  
13 speculation as opposed to long term investment.  
14 There are going to be a few jobs? There is going to  
15 be long term development here? I don't think so. I  
16 think what is going to happen, we are going to have an  
17 eyesore in our community.

18 I was here after the Hurricane Andrew. I  
19 remember looking up and instead of seeing inspiring  
20 formations of F-15 jets, of F-14 jets -- I don't know  
21 the technical terms -- but I looked up two thousand  
22 feet above my house -- it seemed like one hundred  
23 feet -- and there was a huge cargo plane. I remember  
24 that after the Hurricane.

25 We appreciated the aid very much, but having

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COMMENTS

1 that for the rest of my life that I am going to spend  
 2 here in South Florida is not what I relish.  
 3 I want to say I admire the courage of Mayor  
 4 Shiver to come out here and do something that's gutsy,  
 5 to declare political suicide in a place that's a  
 6 narrow vote margin, and we have ways to defeat him and  
 7 send him packing, and those are consequences.  
 8 This is not a win. You are not going to  
 9 have the financial sugardaddy. You have a small gain  
 10 after this and we are going to go after the Sunshine  
 11 Law and see where the money goes, all these bids and  
 12 all this information.  
 13 I want to say I am disgusted by the fact  
 14 that not a single person revealed their financial  
 15 gains. I don't have any financial motivation to be up  
 16 here, unlike so many people that stood up here and  
 17 spoke. If you want to make money, tell us why you  
 18 want to make money, tell us how much money you are  
 19 going to make, and we can appreciate that.  
 20 Thank you very much.  
 21 000054 JOSE ROMERO: Good evening. I know it's a  
 22 little late, so I am going to be short and sweet. I  
 23 am a resident of Miami-Dade for the last thirty-four  
 24 years. I am also an owner of MCL Lumber, which is in  
 25 Naranja. I would like to make some money in the

1 airport development here in Homestead, because since  
 2 1992, it's been eight years, you know, we've been  
 3 waiting for development down here in Naranja and  
 4 nothing has developed here.  
 5 Prior to Andrew we used to hire thirty  
 6 people. Now we only have fifteen. You can see the  
 7 difference. My business is fifty percent of what it  
 8 used to be, because the area is devastated. People  
 9 moved out and never moved in. Why? Because there are  
 10 no jobs. There are no jobs. Most men can't find  
 11 jobs --  
 12 COLONEL McSHANE: Folks, settle down.  
 13 JOSE ROMERO: I think we all here have an  
 14 interest, and I hope I can make money. I've been  
 15 losing money for the last eight years. I pay my taxes  
 16 like you and anybody else.  
 17 Everybody else left. Andrew destroyed my  
 18 home. What I did, I stayed, and I am still there.  
 19 I've been there for thirty years and I am going to  
 20 still be there for a long time.  
 21 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.  
 22 We are at the time where we need to wrap it  
 23 up and clear out of here. I am going to adjourn the  
 24 hearing at 11:45 p.m.  
 25

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CERTIFICATE

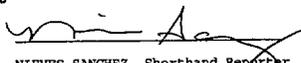
1 STATE OF FLORIDA )  
 2 ) SS:  
 3 )  
 4 COUNTY OF DADE )

5  
 6 I, NIEVES SANCHEZ, Shorthand Reporter and  
 7 Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at  
 8 Large, hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
 9 numbered from 1 to 159, inclusive, are a true and  
 10 correct transcription of the stenographic notes of the  
 11 proceedings had and testimony taken in the foregoing  
 12 case, at the time and place hereinabove set forth.

13 I further certify that I am not of counsel, I am  
 14 not related to nor employed by an attorney to this suit,  
 15 nor interested in the outcome thereof.

16 The foregoing certification does not apply to any  
 17 reproduction of this transcript by any means unless under  
 18 the direct control and/or direction of the certifying  
 19 shorthand reporter.

20 Dated at Miami, Dade County, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup>  
 21 day of February 2000.

22  
 23   
 24 NIEVES SANCHEZ, Shorthand Reporter  
 25

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**Transcript of  
Public Hearing**

**February 2, 2000  
10:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

**Signature Gardens  
12725 SW 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Kendall, Florida**

1

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

ORIGINAL

DISPOSAL OF PORTIONS OF THE FORMER  
HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

PUBLIC MEETING

12725 S.W. 122 Avenue  
Miami, Florida  
February 2, 2000  
10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The public meeting was held before COLONEL  
MICHAEL B. McSHANE, Chief Trial Judge.

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(Thereupon, the following proceedings were held in private.)

000085 RAE S. NEWMAN: Hello. My name is Rae Newman. I live in Dade County, and I love the environment. I enjoy visiting the national parks and I enjoy seeing the wildlife. The proposed commercial airport would be located between two endangered national parks, Biscayne and Everglades. Both parks attract a great many birds and other wildlife.

The amount of air traffic that would be apparent if a commercial airport were established at the Homestead Air Force Base location would make collisions with birds much more prevalent. Not only would that pose a great danger to the birds, but also a great danger to the people flying in and out of this airport.

Additionally, the noise of a plane flying right over the national parks would greatly change the serenity that now exists there. If a cargo airport also were established at this location, trucks would then have to carry cargo from Homestead north to Dade County, Broward County and all points north along an already overcrowded US-1 or 874 expressway.

Please reconsider locating this commercial airport at Opa-Locka which is the other locale which

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has been proposed, and which is located more in the center of commerce and development.

We need all the open space and all the diversity that we can preserve.

000086 KATHY BARBER: My name is Kathleen Barber. I reside at 11321 Southwest 100 Avenue. I am a forty year resident of Miami. I am speaking today as a Miami resident and a member of the Sierra Club. I am in opposition to the proposed redevelopment of the Homestead Air Force base as a commercial airport.

It will have a negative impact on the South Florida environment. I would like alternative plans, alternative arrangements to be sought to preserve our environment, our water resources and my natural life and your native wildlife. I would like the Everglades to be preserved for my two children, ages five and two, so they have an opportunity to grow up in South Florida and view it just as I have in the past forty years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

I have one further objection. The original planned redevelopment of the Homestead Air Force base was never publicly bid. There was never public input. If there is a decision to reuse this area for commercial purpose, it should be open for competitive

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bidding and public information.

Thank you very much to your attention.

000087 DONNA KALLIL: I oppose the commercial airport for environmental reasons and health reasons. I believe it wouldn't be good for our state parks or the health of our citizens here in Miami. I support the international spaceport instead. I believe that this will bring in high tech jobs and would be a better alternative for the environment.

Thank you.

000088 STEVE KRONEN: My name is Steve Kronen. I just want to record my strong opposition to the airport being placed in the Everglades here. It's an ecological disaster. It must be stopped.

000089 PATRICIA H. HACKETT: My name is Patricia Hackett. My question is: Given the fact that there was an Air Force base before, I'd like to know the increase in air traffic should a regular airport, civilian airport be established, and how would this interface with the air reserve base traffic, because people have commented that there was an Air Force base there before, and, yes, that's true, however will the traffic be the same, quadrupled, ten times?

I'd like to know what the air traffic would be in comparison to what it was when the active Air

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COMMENTS

1 Force Base was there?

2 Naturally I am concerned about the economy

3 of the area, but also about the environment.

4 Does that sound all right?

5 Thank you.

6 000090 VIRGINIA LEPPER: My name is Virginia

7 Lepper. I've lived in Dade County since 1944, and I

8 have a very strong interest in protecting the

9 environment in this area. I think it's a beautiful

10 place like no other in this country, and I think it

11 would be a mistake to lose the beauty of the

12 Everglades and Biscayne National Park, when we've

13 invested a lot of money in the parks and we promised a

14 lot of money to preserve the Everglades.

15 I am much opposed to an airport -- a

16 bustling airport in the Homestead area, because I

17 think there is no way anything can be done to keep it

18 from being a blot on the landscape.

19 When you look at Miami Airport, and see the

20 development surrounding it, there is no way it can

21 possibly fit in with two national parks, that we want

22 to keep in their pristine condition for future tourist

23 trade and for our children and our grandchildren.

24 The present administration has been doing a

25 lot on the ecology field and has dedicated a number of

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1 millions of acres to park land, and I just don't think

2 that we should allow those two national parks to be

3 destroyed by building an airport with lots of

4 pollution right in the very middle of it.

5 I know people in Homestead are anxious for

6 jobs, but with the employment rate as high as it is at

7 this point, I fail to see how people in Homestead

8 can't get jobs some place else if necessary. I mean,

9 lots of people move for employment purposes and

10 certainly they can do the same thing.

11 000091 SANDRA TAKESHITA: My name is Sandra

12 Takeshita, T-A-K-E-S-H-I-T-A. I am here because I do

13 not feel that a full major expansion of Homestead Air

14 Force Base property into a larger commercial airport

15 is a good idea for the area. I think that

16 redevelopment can go in many other directions that

17 would favor parks and a good family life in the area

18 to co-exist along with it.

19 The Hoover/Collier development plan, I don't

20 know a lot about it, but it is looking better to me

21 than a major expansion of the airport.

22 Homestead Air Force Preserve is fine. I

23 don't have any problem with continuing the reserve

24 base.

25 The economy of the area has come back from

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1 Hurricane Andrew, but development of the property

2 would be good for the area and encourage people to

3 move in and it would provide a lot of jobs, but I

4 think we don't need to rush into an airport alone. I

5 think we need to look at alternatives such as the

6 aquarium and more family oriented sites and

7 activities.

8 The parks are too valuable to let them

9 become placed in jeopardy with the type of activities

10 that go on in support of an airport, and I am not at

11 all certain that people who currently use MIA would

12 even be in favor of going that far and moving their

13 services. I am here at the meeting partly to become

14 more familiar with the alternatives, but I definitely

15 do not favor a major expansion for airport uses.

16 Thank you.

17 000092 STEPHEN HALPERT: My name is Stephen

18 Halpert. I am a physician at the University of Miami,

19 and I am also a recent graduate as of December with an

20 MBA at the University of Miami. I have kind of a foot

21 in both areas, as far as science and also in the

22 business world.

23 I certainly understand the concern of the

24 people in the south end of the County about ways to

25 develop an economic base, but I do not believe that

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1 the way to go is with an airport, that is going to

2 bring a great deal of pollution, noise, sound. I

3 guess that's the same thing.

4 Biological contaminants in the air and

5 things that float to the ground and get in the water

6 and the little algae and everything gets bad. The

7 food chain starts to deteriorate. This already

8 happened in Biscayne Bay and this can only worsen it.

9 I think the study is flawed, the statement

10 that it would take groundwater years to be affected by

11 the contaminants from the airport in our area. They

12 will happen much more rapidly, even in terms of weeks,

13 which is what the local scientists say.

14 The other data is based on areas that don't

15 have the same very open drainage from the surface

16 water to the groundwater.

17 I really would like the proposals of the

18 Collier and Hoover people to come in with an

19 eco-environmental study, with aquarium research

20 science and marine science and with a lot of the input

21 from the marine science people as well as any other

22 groups like that.

23 I think that brings in a similar number of

24 jobs. Hopefully more people would come in for more

25 visits and spend time and learn about this type of

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1 environment. I think it's the kind of thing that our  
2 community needs to help boost our morale and our self  
3 image.

4 I am very concerned about maintaining the  
5 more natural aspect of how water flows from the  
6 Everglades into the bay and this would be consistent  
7 with the Army Corps' overall plan to bring back the  
8 more historical type of water flow in that area, and I  
9 think that putting an airport this close to Biscayne  
10 National Park would be a very negative attempt to  
11 develop that kind of process.

12 I am also concerned about the effects on  
13 proposed ideas to increase the amount of wetlands in  
14 that area and I think that the airport would have a  
15 much greater effect than the mixed use plans proposed  
16 by the Collier and Hoover people.

17 I am very concerned with the possibility  
18 that if the land does get placed for mixed use, that  
19 the determination of how this land would be developed  
20 would be up to the Miami-Dade County commission which  
21 has done a rather disgusting job over the years in  
22 dealing with some types of logical and intelligent  
23 plans for our County.

24 This deeding of the land from the Air Force  
25 to the Department of Interior and given to the Collier

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1 family in exchange for the gas and all rights, would  
2 enable a group to oversee the development of this  
3 area, so it will become a model rather than a  
4 discussing corrupted plan or lack of plan of  
5 development which we have in most of our County.

6 So I certainly support the mixed use  
7 alternative.

8 000093 CYNTHIA COWEN: My name is Cynthia Cowen. I  
9 am chairperson for the local chapter of the Miami  
10 Chapter of Save Earth. That's an international  
11 environmental organization. My feeling is that I  
12 would not like to see the Air Force base not developed  
13 into an airport.

14 My reasons are: I think it would compromise  
15 the ecology in the area and I feel that at a certain  
16 point, with the number of people that live in this  
17 geographic area, there has to be a reasonable amount  
18 of development. I feel over-development is the rule  
19 at this point, and there could be better uses for that  
20 area.

21 For instance, I would like to see the land  
22 preserved as land, and whatever goes in there not to  
23 compromise the quality of the life forms that are in  
24 the area.

25 That's it.

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1 000094 DAMARIE QUINTANA: My name is Damarie  
2 Quintana. I live in Southwest Miami. I am for the  
3 airport. We need the jobs. Studies have been made  
4 that say it won't harm the environment.

5 I feel this -- there are a lot of different  
6 things. One thing is being a racial thing. President  
7 Clinton, Vice President Gore promised us this years  
8 ago and now they are backing out on this.

9 I'd like to quote on something on the debate  
10 Al Gore had in New Hampshire on January 26 with Bill  
11 Bradley.

12 The question to him was: Mr. Gore, can you  
13 outline your specific vision of the White Mountain  
14 National Forest for our people here in New Hampshire,  
15 who count on it for business and recreation?

16 Vice President Gore answer's was: We should  
17 respect and continue the process of local input to  
18 take into account the uniqueness in the White Mountain  
19 National Forest. And as we protect the wilderness  
20 area, that same local input will be a part of the  
21 process.

22 He states right there that he will take  
23 input, and from the looks of it, he is not.

24 That is all I have to say.

25 We need the jobs and we are not going to

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1 harm the environment.

2 Thank you.

3 000095 KEN SOMMER: My name is Ken Sommer. I live  
4 at 8535 Southwest 112 Street in Miami. I think it's  
5 very important to retain the undeveloped character of  
6 this parcel of land to use it for agricultural or  
7 residential areas.

8 This national park is important. It is a  
9 wildlife area, and we need to learn from our history,  
10 both with the Homestead Air Force Base and with  
11 Richmond Field, both of which were devastated by  
12 hurricanes. This area is subject to destruction by  
13 hurricanes. That almost anything that's built there  
14 will be ultimately destroyed, except for agriculture  
15 or recreational uses.

16 That's it. Thank you.

17 (Thereupon, the following proceedings were  
18 held at the public meeting.)

19 COLONEL MOSHANE: I'd like to have everybody  
20 take a seat so we can go ahead and get started now.

21 I have a couple of administrative  
22 announcements. If you have any signs or banners that  
23 you took along with you to your seats, please do not  
24 hold them up and block anybody else's view.

25 Something I learned from last night, I

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COMMENTS

request that anybody who has a cell phone, please turn the ringer off. That was a little bit distracting last night to have all the phones ringing all night long. Put it on vibrate mode or voice mail mode or whatever it takes, and you can deal with it later.

One other thing you should know at this point is that this session will be ending at 4:30 today, so that we have a little time between this session and the open house which will start at 5:30 and the evening hearing which will start at 7:00 p.m. I just didn't want you to be surprised when I stopped at 4:30 this afternoon.

Welcome to this public hearing on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Disposal of Portions of the Former Homestead Air Force Base. I am Colonel Mike McShane. I am the Chief Trial Judge of the Air Force, stationed at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, DC. My normal duties include presiding over Air Force courts-martial. But this week I've been made available to preside over this series of five hearings which are being held in this area concerning the disposal and subsequent reuse of former Homestead Air Force base property.

I have not been involved in the development of any of the proposals that are being considered. My

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job is just to make sure that we have a fair and orderly hearing today.

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to come here today for this public hearing. If you were interested, I hope you took time to visit with the technical staff prior to this portion of the hearing.

In preparing this Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, or Draft SEIS, as we'll be calling it all afternoon -- it was the Air Force's goal to understand the environmental implications of deciding for what purpose and to whom to convey surplus property at former Homestead Air Force Base. The Draft SEIS examines reasonable ways in which the property might be developed, used, and the reasonably foreseeable environmental consequences of the alternatives.

At this time I'd like to introduce Major Mike Chipley of the Air Force Executive Issues Team. He's an engineer by trade, with a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Colorado. Major Chipley will discuss the proposed action and alternatives, and provide a short synopsis of the reuse issues.

Since the overall purpose of these hearings

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to obtain input from you on the contents of the Draft SEIS, the presentation will be short.

Major Chipley.

MAJOR CHIPLEY: Thank you, Colonel McShane.

I too would like to extend my thanks to all of you for taking time to provide your comments on the Draft SEIS.

For the past several years we have been engaged in the process of completing the realignment and reuse of former Homestead Air Force Base as required by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act.

The Air Force's primary goal in this process is to transfer the properties in a manner that supports local plans for economic revitalization of South Florida and protects Biscayne Bay and the nearby national parks. A disposal must also be compatible with continuing the existing military and law enforcement missions.

The Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, are the designated Lead Agencies for the Draft SEIS.

The Air Force has decision-making responsibilities for the transfer of the property.

The FAA has decision-making responsibilities

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for airport facilities.

There are three Cooperating Agencies.

One cooperating agency is the National Park Service, because it manages Biscayne National Park, and Everglades National Park.

Another cooperating agency is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because of its responsibilities to ensure threatened and endangered species are adequately considered and because of the proximity of Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

The third cooperating agency is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of its regulatory responsibilities.

The contractor hired by the Air Force to actually conduct the analysis is Science Applications International Corporation, or SAIC for short. They've been supported by another contractor, Landrum and Brown, which performed airport planning and noise analysis.

I would like to take a couple of minutes to update you on the SEIS process and what has occurred since the scoping period ended in July of 1998. More than four hundred forty individuals, organizations, and agencies provided written input during our one hundred thirty-two day scoping period, and one hundred

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1 ninety-five people spoke at public scoping meetings.  
 2 The size and complexity of the Draft SEIS has grown  
 3 substantially because of the number and diverse nature  
 4 of issues and many federal agencies, state and local  
 5 governments, private organizations, and concerned  
 6 citizens involved. Midway through the analysis, two  
 7 mixed use proposals were received which were  
 8 incorporated into the analysis.

9 We recognize this has been a long process  
 10 for everyone. We want you to know many other  
 11 communities have also struggled through the base  
 12 closure process. Some former bases have been  
 13 developed for aviation uses, others for non-aviation  
 14 uses. The success of redevelopment depends upon the  
 15 local community's involvement and support.

16 The Draft SEIS examines a number of reuse  
 17 alternatives for remaining surplus property at the  
 18 former base. Ongoing reuse involving property that  
 19 has already been transferred, like the Job Corps  
 20 Center, the Dade County Homeless Trust, the regional  
 21 park, and other deeded properties, would continue  
 22 under any of the alternatives.

23 The alternatives underwent thorough and  
 24 complex analysis of the environmental and economic  
 25 impacts that could potentially occur as a result of

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1 redevelopment. Fourteen topics were used as the basis  
 2 for the analysis. Public and agency concerns that  
 3 were expressed at our scoping meetings identified  
 4 important issues and helped focus our analysis. Those  
 5 concerns have been incorporated throughout the Draft  
 6 SEIS.

7 When the reuse process was initiated for  
 8 Homestead Air Force Base, Miami-Dade County was  
 9 designated as the Local Reuse Authority to develop a  
 10 reuse plan for the former base.

11 The County has proposed that the one  
 12 thousand six hundred thirty-two acres of remaining  
 13 surplus property at former Homestead Air Force Base be  
 14 transferred to Miami-Dade County Aviation Department  
 15 for development of a commercial airport.

16 This is the Proposed Action addressed in the  
 17 Draft SEIS. The analysis of the Proposed Action  
 18 includes identifying and assessing new flight tracks  
 19 that would be used at the commercial airport.

20 Airport operations, in general, are  
 21 characteristically different than commercial or  
 22 residential land uses in the types and numbers of  
 23 vehicles, equipment and people, and the resulting  
 24 impacts to the environment. The main issues of the  
 25 proposed action involve air pollution, stormwater

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1 runoff and noise levels.

2 Another alternative examined in the Draft  
 3 SEIS is a Commercial Spaceport. The main issues with  
 4 the commercial spaceport alternative involve the  
 5 uncertainties related to the licensing process, safety  
 6 and potential increase in noise.

7 Three approaches were examined for  
 8 non-aviation uses, presented as the Mixed Use  
 9 Alternative.

10 Market driven development.

11 The Collier Resources Company proposal and  
 12 the Hoover Environmental Group Plan.

13 The Mixed Use alternatives could create  
 14 higher intensity of use in a shorter period of time  
 15 but may have less environmental effects on the  
 16 national parks.

17 The Draft SEIS also includes the No Action  
 18 alternative, which means the property continues to  
 19 belong to the government and reverts to caretaker  
 20 status. Under each alternative, the Air Force,  
 21 Florida Air National Guard and Customs Service  
 22 continue to use the runway for their current military  
 23 and law enforcement missions.

24 The Draft SEIS addresses each alternative in  
 25 the context of future growth in South Florida and also

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1 takes into account potential cumulative impacts of  
 2 other projects. It also includes some historical  
 3 information where available.

4 Your views and comments on the Draft SEIS  
 5 will be important as we work toward completing the  
 6 Final SEIS. We are now about half way through the  
 7 sixty day public comment period. We scheduled these  
 8 hearings to provide you an opportunity to review the  
 9 Draft SEIS and formulate comments you can give here  
 10 today, and also to provide some time after these  
 11 hearings so you can incorporate things you might learn  
 12 here today into written comments. Whether you choose  
 13 to comment today or to provide your comments in  
 14 writing between now and March 7, we look forward to  
 15 receiving your input and assisting us in completing  
 16 the final document.

17 The Final SEIS, scheduled for completion in  
 18 July 2000, will include comments made at the public  
 19 hearings or submitted in writing during the public  
 20 comment period for the Draft SEIS, along with Air  
 21 Force and FAA responses to your comments.

22 A decision on what action will be taken  
 23 concerning the transfer of the disposal property will  
 24 be made no earlier than thirty days after publication  
 25 of the Final SEIS.

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We will continue to distribute news releases and send newsletters to those on our mailing list throughout the final course of the SEIS process.

Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list should complete an attendance card located at the registration table and check the appropriate box on the card.

In summary, I'd like to say that we do understand that this is a complicated and often frustrating process. Let me reiterate that neither the Air Force nor FAA proposes direct development the surplus property.

The Air Force's goal is to transfer the land in a manner that supports local plans for economic revitalization and protects Biscayne Bay and the nearby national parks.

A disposal must also be compatible with continuing the existing military and law enforcement missions.

COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you, Major Chipley.

We offered each of the proponents of an alternative an opportunity to describe their proposal and speak about it. Miami-Dade County representatives have been given up to ten minutes to speak about their proposal.

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You may also have noticed that some of the other proponents, although they've elected not to give a presentation, have materials available at tables at the back of the room.

I understand we have here today Bill Johnson, the Assistant City Manager, and Gary Dellapa, the Aviation Director from Miami-Dade County, and they have less than ten minutes to talk about their proposal.

Proceed.

GARY DELLAPA: Thank you.

Good afternoon. My name is Gary Dellapa. I am the Aviation Director for Miami-Dade County. We operate Miami International Airport and five general aviation airports. I'd like to thank you for giving us again the opportunity to present our department's recommendation for redevelopment of the former Air Force base.

It is important for this panel to bear in mind that the aeronautical capacity issue that I am addressing today is not just South Dade's issue, not just a Miami-Dade County issue, but issues of great concern to all of South Florida.

You've heard previous testimony from our Mayor and other elected officials on what the decision

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on reuse means to continue prosperity for this region. History is on the side of aviation.

The South Florida community has a longstanding and pre-eminent position in the aviation world, dating back to the first airline terminal in the United States in 1928 and continuing through the tremendous growth of tourism and foreign trade.

This community has come to rely on the aviation industry as the chief provider of jobs.

All is not well, however. The current system of airport is taxed to the extreme of its limit and will prove unable to meet future demands unless helped by a new facility.

In the rear of the auditorium the airport has a display on future airport demands and our capacity to meet the demands. It is imperative that you understand that our inability to meet market driven demands means a loss of economic activity and serious impact on our employment base and business community. You may be aware of our efforts to accelerate a fourth runway at Miami International. This project is the single most important element of our department's long range development program. However, this final incremental gain in capacity will not be able to meet the air traffic forecast for

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beyond 2015.

For our facility to meet both near and long term demands, a critical element of this plan is to perceive the flexibility to be able to react to future market conditions that may be unforeseen today, such as a free Cuba, the growth of E-commerce or the success of the Free Trade of the Americas.

Miami-Dade's most limiting capacity constraints today is the number of full service commercial carrier runways available in our airport system to safely manage air traffic forecast levels.

Miami International is quickly reaching saturation, to the point where no additional runway or additional capacity can be provide. Numerous efforts in the last three decades to identify new sites in South Florida for commercial aviation facilities have proved fruitless. There is no other site. There isn't even another site.

Consequently, the most crucial issue confronting us today is the decision on the ultimate reuse plan. That decision will affect whether or not this community will be able to accommodate the tremendous growth and is unable to meet it with MIA and other airports alone.

For example, as reported in the SEIS,

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1 Opa-Locka is crowded with air space and environmental  
2 issues, and from an aviation point of view the  
3 conclusion is inescapable. We need Homestead.  
4 However, the need for identifying long term capacity  
5 demands will not come at the expense of environmental  
6 compatibility.

7 One of the Miami-Dade Aviation Department's  
8 stated system plan and objective is to provide an  
9 aviation facility to meet demand while ensuring a  
10 balance between environmental issues and economic  
11 opportunity for our residents.

12 The SEIS indicates that there will be no  
13 unacceptable environmental impact associated with the  
14 commercial airport development alternative. In  
15 contrast, noise impact from commercial airports are  
16 found to be less intrusive than those resulting from  
17 the military's presence.

18 Miami-Dade County is committed to ensuring  
19 that the plan and development of the commercial  
20 airport alternative is implemented in an  
21 environmentally compatible manner. This is not just  
22 words or hollow promises. It is Miami-Dade County's  
23 substantial track record of environmental responses.  
24 We have spent over one hundred seventy million dollars  
25 since 1994 to address environmental issues. Our

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1 current five million dollar construction program is  
2 built around maintaining the environmental quality of  
3 not only the airport, but the surrounding communities  
4 as well.

5 These are very real and tangible attestment  
6 to our commitment. Under the leadership of Major  
7 Penelas and the county manager, no one should fear  
8 implementation of the airport alternative.

9 Miami-Dade proposed in the SEIS the  
10 projected flight operations provided for future  
11 demand. We believe that the airport is the most  
12 compatible. Furthermore, advances in airplane and  
13 engine technology should offset the engine frenzy of  
14 commercial flight into conversion to Stage Three  
15 engines on all aircrafts. This change came about  
16 January 1st this year.

17 Another example of this type of technology  
18 change is increase use of a quiet regional fleet. We  
19 are at a crossroads as to the future of aviation in  
20 South Florida. This is our only opportunity to  
21 preserve a badly needed airport to the regional  
22 airport system and come to allow this community  
23 aviation industry to grow and prosper.

24 COLONEL McSHANE: I understand Mr. Rasco is  
25 going to use the remaining four or so minutes.

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1 RAMON RASCO: Thank you. My name is Ramon  
2 Rasco, representing the developer selected by the  
3 County in the process leading to the execution of the  
4 lease. I am here to confirm on the record once again  
5 that the developer is committed to building an  
6 environmentally safe airport.

7 The developer's commitment was spelled out  
8 in Chapter 288, that started in Miami-Dade County,  
9 that was approved by the entire county commission,  
10 that resulted in a park being dedicated to this  
11 community -- to the South Dade community, that went to  
12 Palm Beach and received approval from the South  
13 Florida Water Management District.

14 It was reviewed and approved by the  
15 Department of Community Affairs in Tallahassee and  
16 received the unanimous approval of Lawton Chiles and  
17 his cabinet sitting as Florida Administrative  
18 Commission in 1998.

19 This is in fact in contrast to the Collier  
20 Hoover plan which has not been reviewed by a single  
21 one of these governmental bodies or agencies. All of  
22 the environmental safeguards that have been built into  
23 this project through the 288 process have been agreed  
24 to by the developer, by my client, and today the  
25 developer hereby reaffirms his commitment to those

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1 safeguards and building an airport that will be  
2 compatible with our environment, with our community  
3 and our national parks.

4 This project brings tremendous economic  
5 development opportunities to the entire Miami-Dade  
6 County and provides, as Aviation Director Dellapa has  
7 said, the necessary airport capacity for our air  
8 transportation system, in order for Miami-Dade County  
9 to remain at the forefront of international trade and  
10 commerce well into the 21st century.

11 Let me talk about the lease for a minute.  
12 Even our harsher critics have agreed this is a fair  
13 lease. The lease was awarded and was signed after  
14 numerous public hearings and intense public scrutiny,  
15 again, in fact in contrast to the Collier-Hoover plan  
16 which has not been subjected to any public hearing in  
17 Dade County.

18 The lease represents millions of dollars of  
19 revenue to Dade County. It is a public asset. The  
20 airport is a public asset and the lease will provide  
21 millions of dollars in revenues to this community.  
22 The lease will provide for the developer to build  
23 state-of-the-art facilities for E-commerce, for  
24 aircraft maintenance and repair in our community and  
25 many other facilities, that will provide good high

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COMMENTS

1 paying jobs for our community, our children and our  
2 grandchildren.

3 The developer is committed to making this  
4 project a win-win situation, with a high-tech  
5 enviromentally safe airport that will be developed  
6 with the appropriate mitigation measures implemented  
7 as the project is built out, in order to prevent any  
8 damage to our national parks or to our environment.

9 In closing, the County's plan presents us an  
10 opportunity and responsibility. It is a tremendous  
11 opportunity for good jobs, for economic development  
12 and air transportation for our community and it  
13 balances it with the responsibility of caring for our  
14 environment, caring for our parks and caring for our  
15 communities.

16 For these reasons we urge the Air Force and  
17 its cooperating agencies, including SAIC, to dispose  
18 of this surplus property pursuant to the proposed  
19 action as spelled out in the Draft SEIS.

20 Thank you very much.

21 COLONEL McSHANE: Was that it for the  
22 presentations?

23 With thirty seconds, Bill Johnson, Sr.,  
24 Assistant to County Manager Merrett Steirheim.

25 BILL JOHNSON: I have prepared remarks, but

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1 with thirty seconds, instead of reading the remarks,  
2 let me emphasize the county administration's  
3 perspective for this air field is extremely important.  
4 It is essential that by the year 2015 we have  
5 additional air capacity, not just for Miami-Dade  
6 County, but for all of South Florida, so we can  
7 continue to grow.

8 Again, my last remarks will be that this  
9 community has over ten million visitors a year.  
10 Ninety-five percent of those visitors come by air.  
11 Air travel is essential to the health of our  
12 community, again not just Miami-Dade County, but all  
13 of South Florida.

14 We believe that this airport can be done in  
15 a very safe enviromentally sensitive way. We urge you  
16 to support it, if you will, and to allow Miami-Dade  
17 County to move forward to utilize this as a reliever  
18 airport.

19 Thank you.

20 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.

21 This concludes the presentations of  
22 information about the proposals. In a few minutes we  
23 will begin the public comment portion of this hearing.

24 You'll have several ways to provide your  
25 comments. If you have brought written comments,

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1 please place them in the box that's available for  
2 receiving your comments. Written comments carry the  
3 same weight as oral comments which are presented at  
4 this hearing. If you want to write down your comments  
5 while you are here, there are forms at the table  
6 outside where you can fill them out and leave them.  
7 You can also take the form with you back to your homes  
8 to complete and then mail it back to the address  
9 provided on the comment form. You can also write up  
10 your comments in your own format and mail them in.  
11 You do not need to use the comment forms. They were  
12 only prepared for your convenience.

13 You will have the opportunity to provide  
14 oral comments when I begin the public comment portion  
15 of the hearing. Let me tell you a few things about  
16 the public comment period today. Last night we had a  
17 big crowd and not everyone was able to speak before we  
18 stopped at 11:45 p.m. We will start today with those  
19 that we did not get to last night. After that we'll  
20 move on to any elected officials that have indicated  
21 they want to speak today, and after that we'll hear  
22 from those of you who have submitted cards today  
23 indicating that you wish to speak. We will call you  
24 in the order that the cards were submitted, with one  
25 caveat. If you did speak last night and you submitted

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1 another card today, we'll put you at the end of the  
2 list for today.

3 Anyone who has not yet filled out a card and  
4 wants to speak will be given an opportunity to do so  
5 after all the registered speakers have made their  
6 comments. Each individual or organization will have  
7 three minutes to provide comments. You may finish  
8 your sentence when your time is up, but please stop  
9 promptly so that we can hear from the maximum number  
10 of people.

11 I remind you that boos and clapping take  
12 away time from the speaker's time. So please respect  
13 other's view points and let them make their comments  
14 without interruption.

15 When you do come up to the microphones there  
16 in the aisle, I would ask that you please clearly  
17 state your name and the name of any organization that  
18 you might be representing.

19 The transcript will be a permanent record of  
20 this hearing and will be published in the final SEIS.  
21 Please do not provide any personal information in your  
22 comments if you don't want to see it published in the  
23 final SEIS.

24 It is very important that you use the  
25 microphones that we have there so that the reporter

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1 can hear you and get your comments down for the  
2 record.

3 The focus of this hearing portion is to  
4 listen to your comments regarding the contents of the  
5 Draft SEIS and I remind you that it's not appropriate  
6 to engage in personal attacks on one another or  
7 comment on someone else's earlier comments. That  
8 doesn't get you anywhere and it isn't commenting on  
9 the environmental impact as this hearing is designed  
10 to receive.

11 Preceding this presentation you had an  
12 opportunity to ask questions one-on-one of the  
13 technical staff, and, hopefully, all your questions  
14 were answered. Any further questions asked in the  
15 course of making your statements will be addressed in  
16 the final SEIS rather than answering today. Please  
17 focus your comments on the Draft SEIS and the analysis  
18 of the reuse options.

19 If you need to have your comments translated  
20 into English and did not so indicate when you signed  
21 in, please let me know when you are called up. If you  
22 make comments today and later decide you have  
23 additional comments or know someone who is interested  
24 in the comment process, but is unable to attend any of  
25 the meetings, written comments can be submitted until

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1 March 7, 2000. The mailing address can be found on  
2 all of the available handouts.

3 At this point I am going to start out by  
4 calling on last night's attendees who we did not get  
5 to, and I've told several folks who did come up here  
6 and asked, I am doing that at this hearing and I am  
7 doing it again tonight. If people did not make it to  
8 the afternoon session, but are able to attend tonight,  
9 I will start out this portion of the hearing by  
10 calling on those folks who didn't get here this  
11 afternoon to make statements.

12 000096 DON CHINQUINA: My name is Don Chinquina. I  
13 commend Katie Sorenson for standing up last night as  
14 the only public official against the airport and in  
15 favor of the mixed use alternative. I thought that  
16 was very, very right.

17 I also want to thank Commissioner Dennis  
18 Moss and Representative Ballard for their thoughts of  
19 deliberation. Their environmental record is only  
20 exceeded by their personal integrity. I know they are  
21 going to come up with the right solution, and this is  
22 important to know because these folks come from South  
23 Dade County, in fact, in contrast to the mayors that  
24 you heard from the north end of the county.

25 I heard a lot about jobs last night and

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1 family issues, and I was disconcerted and it was  
2 slightly disingenous when I read the Miami Herald  
3 article about Homestead and how we are rebounding down  
4 here in South Dade. We are in a slow, steady upswing  
5 and it's accelerating, and the Herald reports that the  
6 employment in Homestead is less than Dade County.

7 Having said that, no matter how good your  
8 economy is, you want it to get better. That's why you  
9 want the jobs.

10 The realistic issue, I have to tell you,  
11 there is only one way to go. That's the mixed use  
12 alternative. We are prepared to take this thing into  
13 a protracted legal battle. There is going to be one  
14 lawsuit in federal and two in state court. We'll tie  
15 it up for seven years with lawsuits. We just started  
16 in this thing.

17 If jobs is what you want, you need to find  
18 that economic engine that's going to get up there, and  
19 when one window opens and another closes, and that  
20 open window is the mixed use alternative. Think about  
21 it. The environmentalists are going to fight this  
22 thing to death.

23 On the other side, the opponents of the  
24 County plan are in favor of the mixed use alternative.

25 The Miami Herald, Katie Sorenson, the

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1 National Park Services have all come out in favor of  
2 the mixed use alternative. Secretary of Interior,  
3 Bruce Babbet, himself has said the airport will  
4 destroy the national parks or degrade the national  
5 parks and he's in favor of the mixed use alternative.

6 You don't need to be a political science  
7 major to figure out, if your opponents who are  
8 opposing the airport are lining up behind the other  
9 economic engine, which is going to be the quickest way  
10 to go.

11 I want to address one criticism that's been  
12 thrown around. They said we have not supported or  
13 endorsed the Collier plan. I am the man that brought  
14 Lisa Hoover to the Collier plan. I did it because I  
15 needed an environmentalist there. Her dad is the  
16 founder of Biscayne National Park and I trust they  
17 will represent our interests there.

18 Having said that, there are things that we  
19 need to learn about the Collier/Hoover plan. We are  
20 doing everything we can to facilitate that plan and  
21 come up with an environmentally sensitive solution.  
22 So don't think we are not excited as an alternative.

23 Thank you.  
24 000097 DR. MARTIN MOTES: I am Dr. Martin Motes. I  
25 am a member of the Redland Professional Growers

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COMMENTS

1 Association, which I am not speaking on behalf of, but  
 2 I'd like to point out that Redland Professional  
 3 Growers, we sponsor a festival which brings thousands  
 4 of tourists to South Dade each and every year, and is  
 5 exemplary of the type of environmentally safe tourism  
 6 that is being developed in South Dade now.

7 We are closing the possibility of a  
 8 beautiful flower that is just starting to open in  
 9 South Dade, that will utilize the unique tropical  
 10 ambient of South Florida as a unique tourist resource  
 11 with ongoing value to the community.

12 Speaking also on behalf of the agriculture  
 13 community, I feel there has been improper -- not  
 14 enough importance has been give to the impact on the  
 15 agriculture community in the proposed development of  
 16 Homestead Air Force base.

17 In discussions with the staff of the SSIS, I  
 18 brought up the question of whether or not the impact  
 19 of the proposed thirty-five, thirty-seven thousand  
 20 jobs -- but wherever these jobs come from, only  
 21 someone naive would think up to a thousand of those  
 22 jobs would be created in South Dade and the remainder  
 23 of those people will come from outside the region.

24 We are talking about the regional impact of  
 25 thirty five thousand additional homes, with the

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1 additional strain of all resources probably to the  
 2 tune of twenty-five thousand dollars each in tax  
 3 payers outlay. The cost of this proposal will be in  
 4 the range of nine hundred million dollars to the tax  
 5 payers and that does not count the agriculture land  
 6 that will be taken out of production to the tune of  
 7 perhaps fifteen thousand acres to accommodate these  
 8 additional people with the additional congestion, the  
 9 impact in the entire region. The infrastructure has  
 10 not been developed for this. I think this issue  
 11 should be addressed and has not yet been.

12 I would also like to point out that the  
 13 quality of life of the entire region, as an  
 14 agricultural community, will be disrupted by this  
 15 airport. A flight every five minutes makes it  
 16 impossible to conduct a reasonable conversation in  
 17 much of the Homestead area, and it also is in the  
 18 midst of a flight path which carries it through the  
 19 Channel 6 tower which is within one mile of the  
 20 community's elementary and secondary school.

21 The potential for an accident is immense.

22 Finally, I'd like to say thank you for  
 23 allowing us the opportunity to speak here. The  
 24 process was being highjacked. Thank you for giving it  
 25 back to the people and taking it away from those

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1 people who have highjacked this in the beginning.

2 Thank you.

3 COLONEL McSHANE: Lloyd Brown.

4 000098 LLOYD BROWN: Good morning. My name is Lloyd  
 5 Brown. I am Director of the Wildlife Rescue in Dade  
 6 County. I want to mention a few topics that have been  
 7 badly misrepresented.

8 First is that the environmentalists that are  
 9 opposed to the commercial airport are not from this  
 10 area. I don't think there is any family in the area  
 11 that has more history than mine, with the exception of  
 12 the fourteen years I spent as a paratrooper in the US  
 13 Army, and while I fought in two wars.

14 Everybody here has a right to have their  
 15 opinions heard. I have the additional privilege of  
 16 having earned mine.

17 I am very much from this area. I am opposed  
 18 to a commercial airport being developed here. I've  
 19 heard a lot of crazy numbers about the unemployment  
 20 statistics in Homestead. I don't know where they got  
 21 the numbers, but have the Labor Bureau statistics that  
 22 state the highest unemployment in Homestead occurred  
 23 1992. In the seven months prior to Hurricanes Andrew  
 24 unemployment in the Homestead area was 10.3 percent as  
 25 an average.

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1 The most recent month that we have  
 2 statistics for is November of 1999. Unemployment in  
 3 November of '99 was down to five point five percent in  
 4 the Homestead and Florida City areas. It's almost  
 5 half of what it was in 1992.

6 October of 1999 unemployment in Homestead,  
 7 Florida City area was 5.4 percent. That's the lowest  
 8 it has been in the past ten years.

9 The unemployment rate that this airport is  
 10 supposed to reduce does not exist.

11 I worked on a construction crew at the  
 12 Homestead Motor Speedway. I was one of only two  
 13 workers on the whole crew that was from this area.  
 14 Everybody else came from Texas, Kansas, North Carolina  
 15 or Mexico.

16 Those are the types of jobs that are going  
 17 to come in with the commercial airport. They are not  
 18 going to be hiring from this community as everybody  
 19 seems to think.

20 Someone last night said they would rather  
 21 see a plane crash in the Everglades than downtown  
 22 Hialeah and Opa-Locka. As an environmentalist, it  
 23 would be better for a plane to crash out in the  
 24 Everglades. The environmental damage would be minimal  
 25 and we can overcome it.

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1 How would that person feel about a 747 or  
 2 124 crashing into Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant?  
 3 I'll quote Edward Abby, "Growth for the sake  
 4 of growth is the philosophy of the cancer cell."  
 5 Thank you.  
 6 COLONEL McSHANE: Kenneth Cassel.  
 7 **000099** KENNETH CASSEL: Good morning. I am  
 8 assistant city manager for the City of Homestead. Any  
 9 time you enter an area where a decision has an impact  
 10 on a significant number of people of the community,  
 11 you have a significant number of diverse positions as  
 12 to the correct decision.  
 13 I applaud the department of the Air Force  
 14 for the effort to address all the alternatives in the  
 15 the SEIS. I believe the SEIS covers the concerns in a  
 16 format that allows a development that does not present  
 17 a significant adverse impact to surrounding  
 18 communities.  
 19 It is abundantly clear that Miami-Dade  
 20 County is lacking in jobs and future growth. The  
 21 county-wide average, according to the SEIS, is 1.4  
 22 jobs per household in South Dade. South of Eureka  
 23 Drive is .8.  
 24 Of the alternatives, the only one that  
 25 presents a plan that would close that gap is the

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1 proposed action that's identified in the SEIS.  
 2 The City of Homestead's Council has passed a  
 3 resolution to support the proposed action. We thank  
 4 you for your efforts to advance a serious, unbiased  
 5 document to the public and for our comments.  
 6 Thank you.  
 7 COLONEL McSHANE: Paul Mulhern.  
 8 **000100** PAUL MULHERN: I am a resident of Goulds,  
 9 Florida. Definitely citizens here are tired and  
 10 economically starved. I remember when this proposal  
 11 first came about and many other companies and  
 12 organizations were interested in Homestead Air Force  
 13 Base, and Dade County commissioners, in their wisdom,  
 14 decided not to open the bid process.  
 15 I can't believe what I hear many of the  
 16 mayors from northern territories and some  
 17 representatives of Dade County saying, that they have  
 18 a good environmental track record.  
 19 This County overall, out of any city in  
 20 America, has less than a one percent track record. I  
 21 am feeling outrage as we felt when we first heard  
 22 about the HABDI deal. It was totally ignored.  
 23 Public hearings were scheduled. One of them  
 24 was at Mays Middle School, where HABDI got up and  
 25 walked out on the citizens that were there to ask

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1 questions or even find out what their plan was.  
 2 Yes, everybody is so economically afraid of  
 3 the base at this point that they are allowed to go on  
 4 with any plan that says we can move forward. However,  
 5 many studies and economic plans have been discussed,  
 6 many studies have been done about this area,  
 7 specifically about tourism. In none of those studies  
 8 has there ever been implemented a cohesive,  
 9 sustainable plan to really showcase that we are  
 10 in-between two national parks.  
 11 The logging industry is devastated. You  
 12 drive down Krome Avenue and you see signs in paradise  
 13 of twenty-seven dollars a night and truckers are  
 14 welcomed. You go to the Keys and you see signs that  
 15 says two hundred dollars a night, and you go to Miami  
 16 Beach and you pay two hundred dollars a night, and  
 17 here we are, in-between, with the wisdom of our city  
 18 council and our county commissioners, with the  
 19 exception of Commissioner Katie Sorenson, who is the  
 20 only one that came out against this plan, and she's  
 21 the one that spent the most time talking to the most  
 22 constituents of her community.  
 23 Dennis Moss and Larcentia Bullard are always  
 24 open to their public, and we live here and we do not  
 25 want a cargo airport. This is not going to be a

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1 commercial airport. This will be a dirty cargo  
 2 facility.  
 3 Thank you.  
 4 COLONEL McSHANE: Steve Golnick.  
 5 Margi Buster.  
 6 **000101** MARGI BUSTER: My name is Margi Buster. I am  
 7 a native and resident of Homestead. I also am  
 8 co-owner of two commercial businesses for over twenty  
 9 years. I belong to a approximately twenty  
 10 non-for-profit organizations, most of them locally. I  
 11 am very active in my community, and today I am not  
 12 representing any of those organizations, but I request  
 13 that you give my personal choice your most serious  
 14 consideration.  
 15 I choose more money for all communities  
 16 surrounding Homestead Air Force Base. South Dade does  
 17 need some economic infusion, and yes that includes  
 18 jobs. I don't have any statistics, but it sounds like  
 19 everybody does.  
 20 We need to balance those jobs for both  
 21 agricultural and environmental areas. We are  
 22 climately unique and are both home to extraordinary  
 23 diverse humans, plants and animals.  
 24 This area must become better than ever,  
 25 which was our slogan after Hurricane Andrew. We owe

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COMMENTS

1 that to ourselves and we owe that to the thousands and  
2 thousands of people who so generously reached out to  
3 us in our time of need after Hurricane Andrew.

4 That seems to be something that the  
5 community rapidly forgets, while we go lewd in our  
6 self-pity.

7 I personally am appalled at how many of your  
8 local elected officials were involved at last night's  
9 meeting, to block out the very residents that your  
10 panel is here to collect input from.

11 Not for one moment do I believe that a cargo  
12 airport will have the same value or integrity to South  
13 Dade as Homestead Air Force Base once did. I cannot  
14 envision international visitors or middle class  
15 residents flocking to visit or moving next door to a  
16 cargo airport, nor do I think that a cargo airport is  
17 the same as the Homestead Recreational Airport.

18 I am not so naive to think that a cargo  
19 airport will not cost the tax payers infrastructure  
20 money. Therefore, I request that you recommend that  
21 the alternative Collier/Hoover plan be looked at very  
22 closely, realizing that the majority of residents will  
23 enjoy a better quality of life, while reducing the  
24 impact on the agriculture and environmental area.

25 That would create harmony.

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1 Thank you.

2 COLONEL McSHANE: Jose Ray Romero.

3 000102 JOSE RAY ROMERO: Good evening. My name is  
4 Jose Raymond Romero. I live at 1850 Flamingo Court,  
5 Homestead. I am here to say that when George Bush  
6 came to town, he said personally that he was going to  
7 help rebuild the town as much as possible. I happen  
8 to meet him personally and shake his hand.

9 Clinton said he was going to do his best for  
10 the town. We are waiting seven years and we haven't  
11 had anything done yet.

12 In reference to Homestead, I live in  
13 Homestead and I have lived in Dade County for  
14 thirty-five years. Homestead Plaza, which is the  
15 biggest shopping center that we have, half of the  
16 shopping center is empty. Most of the businesses have  
17 gone out, because there is not enough business.

18 I also live in Village of Homestead. There  
19 is a shopping center like three blocks from my house.  
20 Out of the eighteen businesses that were there before  
21 Andrew, sixteen have closed down. There are only two.

22 So we definitely have a problem here. We've  
23 asked our mayor and our commission to help us out.  
24 The mayor and six commissioners, they are all in favor  
25 of the Homestead Air Force Base, because its going to

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1 provide jobs.

2 In Panama, when they closed the base, they  
3 didn't want to come to Homestead, because we don't  
4 have a movie theater. Before Andrew we had two movie  
5 theaters. We haven't put one back, because too many  
6 people want to invest money.

7 The Old Fashioned Brickell Lumber was there  
8 sixty years. They closed down. Ace Lumber, the  
9 Redlands, Homestead Electric, a lot of businesses have  
10 been closing.

11 Yes, we do have a few jobs. Like they say,  
12 Wall-Mart. Yes, I have a friend that works there.  
13 They only give him thirty hours and all he makes is  
14 five or six dollars an hour. He has his wife  
15 unemployed. He has two kids. That's not a way to  
16 make a living.

17 Most of the mayors in Dade County also are  
18 for the plan, for the airport. We need it badly. We  
19 are trying to have it there as soon as possible. We  
20 need jobs and we need high paying jobs, not five  
21 dollars an hour or six dollars an hour.

22 The hospital also is having problems. It is  
23 losing money, because there are not too many jobs to  
24 create, you know. So we also have problems.

25 All the contractors in Homestead, they have

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1 to work in Broward County -- the majority -- because  
2 there is no work in here.

3 Thank you, and have a nice day.

4 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.

5 Let me remind my earlier announcement. I  
6 think I heard eight cell phones. Please, folks,  
7 that's rude. Put them on vibrate or put them on voice  
8 mail and pick up your messages later. I know you all  
9 are important, but someone else can wait a couple of  
10 minutes.

11 Adam Redford.

12 000103 ADAM REDFORD: My name is Adam Redford. I am  
13 with the Sierra Club League. In lieu of actually  
14 speaking here, I am going to show a video tape. They  
15 say that a picture is worth a thousand words, and if  
16 you can roll the tape, we can look at two areas that  
17 are in question, Biscayne National Park and a body of  
18 water just off the end of the runway by MIA.

19 (Thereupon, a video tape was played.)

20 ADAM REDFORD: Thank you very much.

21 COLONEL McSHANE: Are you leaving that tape  
22 for attachment to the record?

23 ADAM REDFORD: Yes, I am.

24 COLONEL McSHANE: Curt Ivy.

25 000104 CURT IVY: Good afternoon. My name is Curt

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1 Ivy. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to  
 2 express my view with regards to this issue.  
 3 I have grown up in Dade County for  
 4 forty-five years, been down here. I've lived in South  
 5 Dade County my whole life. I currently reside in  
 6 Homestead. I am currently employed by the City of  
 7 Homestead. I've worked for them for almost thirteen  
 8 years. I started as their police chief, became an  
 9 assistant city manager, stayed there as assistant city  
 10 manager for a couple of years and now I am the acting  
 11 city manager.  
 12 Again, thank you for the opportunity to  
 13 speak to everyone with regard to my position and in  
 14 regard to the air base.  
 15 Homestead -- imagine, in Homestead it has  
 16 been a very difficult. I can tell the difference  
 17 between prior to 1992 and after 1992 in being involved  
 18 in the management of the city. It's a very tough  
 19 job. We are not in a designation as an environmental  
 20 zone, because we are wealthy or because we have a lot  
 21 of -- lot of people that are not unemployed.  
 22 When I looked at this issue, we are all  
 23 concerned with, and now its become heated. We haven't  
 24 had conversation hopefully about this for some time.  
 25 With the 1998 Supplemental Environmental Impact

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1 Statement coming together now and making the  
 2 statement -- I am not an expert on this. I probably  
 3 fall into the same category as most of us. I don't  
 4 know about the environment. I don't work in the  
 5 environment.  
 6 I enjoy the environment. I am not in the  
 7 airport business. I don't know what makes an airport  
 8 run. I am in the city government business, city  
 9 management business, and I have to look at this using  
 10 information that is available to me to read and to try  
 11 to make my best decision to represent the city and my  
 12 citizens.  
 13 There were three criterias I looked at.  
 14 One, we want to maximize economic development. I know  
 15 the difference between when the air base was at full  
 16 capacity and when it was gone. We had the base  
 17 closure in twenty-four hours, not a five year period.  
 18 We appreciate the economic development that the air  
 19 base brought to us. We appreciate it more now that it  
 20 is not here, and sometimes that's not always prevalent  
 21 in military communities.  
 22 We wanted to maximize economic development.  
 23 Our goal was to maximize the environment, not to  
 24 co-exist with the environment.  
 25 After reading the executive summary -- I

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1 didn't read the whole fifteen hundred pages -- the  
 2 executive summary of the SEIS, it appears to me that  
 3 the development of Homestead Air Base as a reliever  
 4 airport maximizes each of those opportunities  
 5 according to the study from the city and that is why I  
 6 support the development of the air base.  
 7 Thank you.  
 8 COLONEL McSHANE: Heidi Kuchenbacker.  
 9 000105 HEIDI KUCHENBACKER: Can you hear me?  
 10 I am here today. I think you know my point  
 11 of view wearing it. I've been outside. I am sure  
 12 everyone has seen me. I am kind of hard to miss in a  
 13 crowd, but I don't want to talk as an  
 14 environmentalist. I want to talk as a person that has  
 15 lived here all my life.  
 16 Homestead Air Force base brought my family  
 17 here years ago. I've grown up in South Florida.  
 18 I've lived and played on the base. I've lived and  
 19 played on the parks. I've lived and played in South  
 20 Dade. My family instilled in me the values to enjoy  
 21 our national parks, to camp, to hike, to canoe, to  
 22 kayak.  
 23 Hurricane Andrew blew my home away. I lived  
 24 in the Keys. Have been there too. It blew my  
 25 business away. I can talk to you about socioeconomic

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1 impacts, can't I?  
 2 I don't want an airport to destroy my  
 3 national park. I don't want an airport to destroy the  
 4 water I kayak on. I don't want an airport to destroy  
 5 the quiet that I run to for solis.  
 6 I've traveled. I've been in Europe. I've  
 7 been all over this country. I've been to most of our  
 8 national parks. We have a treasure here. People from  
 9 around the world come to Everglades and Biscayne  
 10 National Parks.  
 11 We talk about ten million visitors. What  
 12 happens when we don't have parks anymore? How many of  
 13 those ten million visitors will we have?  
 14 I've been in Homestead Air Force base in a  
 15 storm. Stood in two feet of water.  
 16 Of course we want jobs here. Last year I  
 17 worked with a group of people that brought twenty-five  
 18 hundred jobs, not jobs, but small businesses. One of  
 19 those people was at the hearing last night and didn't  
 20 have an opportunity to speak. She is a stay at home  
 21 mom working from her home. Commercial jets over her  
 22 home will end her business.  
 23 Many of these businesses that we established  
 24 in South Florida are in the Homestead area. You will  
 25 destroy their businesses, of the twenty-five hundred

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COMMENTS

1 that we established.

2 We already talked about the no bid process.  
3 I heard people last night talking about: Why can't we  
4 do this quickly? That was Dade County's hand. They  
5 are the ones that didn't allow their people to discuss  
6 options that we had, Collier and Hoover and the other  
7 multi use plans.

8 We have MIA, a perfect example of corruption  
9 at work. Pick up the paper.

10 Lastly, when Mayor Penelas declared on  
11 Friday night that this was the year of Biscayne Bay,  
12 and then to have the audacity to come and speak for a  
13 commercial airport, to me that doesn't represent my  
14 city, and I ask the Air Force not to convey the  
15 property to Miami-Dade County and find an alternative  
16 use or a multi use alternative.

17 Thank you.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Walter Collier.

19 000106 WALTER COLLIER: Thank you, Judge.

20 I would like to do it a little different. I  
21 would like to turn around and face the people.

22 My name is Walter Collier. I've been in  
23 this community since 1943. I am not a native, as some  
24 of you claim to be. I have raised four sons, three  
25 that were pilots in the Air Force and one is who is a

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2256 GLADES ROAD SUITE 524A BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 301 CLEMATIS STREET - SUITE 3000 WEST PALM BEACH

1 basketball coach.

2 I have a lot of attachment to this community  
3 and I have a lot to share with you. It is a sad day  
4 when we worry about the environment and we worry about  
5 jobs and we don't worry about the community. We have  
6 a real, real need in this community to get together --  
7 to be together and to work together.

8 Today I don't see the clapping and the hissing, not as  
9 it was last night, but let's look at what we can  
10 really do.

11 Homestead Air Base is a reserve base  
12 dedicated to the defense of this country. I have a  
13 personal stake down there. My son flies out of  
14 there.

15 I want to tell you something else. That  
16 base, if we elect not to operate a commercial airport,  
17 will be shot down. Everybody says it doesn't matter,  
18 it matters from a different standpoint.

19 We had last year a pilot shortage of  
20 approximately eighteen hundred pilots in this country.  
21 When the majority of the pilots get out, a lot of  
22 them -- I don't have the exact numbers -- go into the  
23 reserves, which this country cannot further develop,  
24 because we shutdown training bases, and  
25 environmentalists encouraged that.

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1 I want to think about what we are trying to  
2 do in this community. We are trying to divide it.  
3 We've done a good job of that. The Air Force has got  
4 a tough decision to make. They have to make a  
5 decision on exactly what they recommend will be done.

6 The deck is stacked against those who wish  
7 to have the commercial airport developed, because  
8 you've got Vice President Gore who made the statement  
9 in Florida City that if he were elected, no aircraft  
10 will ever fly over Everglades National Park or  
11 Biscayne National Park. I don't know what he was  
12 smoking in that meeting. I am sure it was heavy,  
13 because airplanes fly over there at various altitudes,  
14 and they have for fifty-five years -- over fifty.  
15 Control it maybe, but eliminate it, never.

16 The Collier plan -- my name is Collier.  
17 I've been on the business end of a lot of jokes about  
18 the Collier plan and the Hoover plan. Katie Sorenson  
19 endorsed the plan.

20 I am a Collier. My family doesn't endorse  
21 it, in addition to eighty-seven thousand other people  
22 who I can't speak for.

23 What that plan does is very simple. It  
24 offers a golf course with a lot of caddies and offers  
25 a lot of employment at hotels for a lot of chamber

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1 maids and a lot of janitors.

2 COLONEL McSHANE: Your time is up.

3 WALTER COLLIER: I am sorry. Thanks again.

4 Let's get together as a community and let's try to  
5 work this problem out.

6 That base is going to stay here. Let's all  
7 help each other.

8 Thank you very much.

9 COLONEL McSHANE: Mario Santizo.

10 000107 MARIO SANTIZO: Good afternoon. My name is  
11 Mario Santizo. I live in Homestead. I am against the  
12 building of the commercial airport in Homestead,  
13 because according to the SEIS Draft, on Page 36, it  
14 says that in the year 2015 there will be one hundred  
15 fifty thousand operations. That is four hundred  
16 eleven flights a day. That's one flight every two  
17 minutes.

18 Ninety percent of those operations will be  
19 at an average of one every two minutes, day and  
20 night. The other ten percent in this operation is  
21 every eight to twelve minutes from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00  
22 a.m.

23 I am sure that before fifteen years that  
24 airport will be at maximum use. This will create loud  
25 noise, fuel and other pollutions in the clouds

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1 polluting the air we breathe, our homes, our gardens,  
2 our cars, our neighborhoods and our water service and  
3 destroying the environment of the national parks and  
4 the wildlife living here, destroying the quiet,  
5 peaceful and healthy environment we now enjoy.

6 On Page 62 of the summary it says  
7 bird/aircraft strikes involving the F-16 aircrafts  
8 will occur once every three thousand three hundred  
9 operations. If this rate from F-16s were applied to  
10 the forecast civil aircraft operations at Homestead,  
11 an estimated forty-five bird/aircraft strikes could  
12 occur annually by 2015, increasing to about seventy  
13 strikes per year at maximum use.

14 "A serious aircraft accident is estimated to  
15 result from about 0.06 percent of bird strikes."

16 That means that in the year 2015 forty-five  
17 strikes a year, 0.06 percent, there is a possibility  
18 of 2.70 serious accidents a year. That is three  
19 serious accidents a year.

20 Maximum use, seventy strikes a year, by 0.06  
21 percent, is 4.20 serious accidents per year.

22 I think the solution for this problem -- if  
23 one airplane strikes the nuclear plant, we are going  
24 to have a nuclear plant disaster not only in the State  
25 of Florida, but in neighboring states.

1814 W. FLAGLER ST. MATZ TRANSMAN FELDMAN & WILDMER 2255 GLADES ROAD  
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1 The solution for this problem for Miami  
2 Airport is to build an airport in Tamiami Airport.  
3 That will bring jobs for people, and the rich people  
4 from the builders and the bankers will make their  
5 money and everybody will be happy.

6 Thank you very much.

7 COLONEL McSHANE: That's all the cards from  
8 last night. I ran through the entire batch, and I'll  
9 set those aside.

10 I understand from the staffers here that  
11 there were no elected public officials or no one  
12 claiming to be an elected public official for this  
13 afternoon, so we can swing right into folks who signed  
14 up to speak today and who did not speak at a previous  
15 session.

16 Jacqueline Baumgartner.

17 000108 JACQUELINE BAUMGARTNER: Good afternoon  
18 everybody. My name is Jacqueline Baumgartner. I am a  
19 member of the Sierra Club, the National Park  
20 Conservation, the Wilderness Society and the Florida  
21 Zoological Society. I have lived here in South Dade  
22 since 1955.

23 When I first came, right away I went to the  
24 Everglades National Park and I was amazed at the  
25 number of birds that I saw. I have gone back to this

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1 park every year, many, many times and now we see only  
2 about one tenth of the birds that I saw at that time.

3 I went to Biscayne National Park, and  
4 snorkeled also when it first opened, and I was amazed  
5 of all the fish I saw, and now I don't see as much  
6 anymore at all.

7 Now, you will say, what does that have to do  
8 with the airport? Well, I will tell you. If in all  
9 these years there has been such a decline, its because  
10 of pollution, because of the air and the water. With  
11 more air flights over this region, we will have even  
12 more pollution and more decline of the wildlife that  
13 we enjoy in this region.

14 I am not married. I don't have any children  
15 and no grandchildren, so I shouldn't care, because I  
16 don't have anybody to give it to, but if I am standing  
17 here now it is because of your children and your  
18 grandchildren. What are you going to leave them? All  
19 they are going to have is just a cargo airport.

20 Thank you for letting me speak.

21 COLONEL McSHANE: James Nall.

22 000109 JAMES NALL: I am a resident of South Dade  
23 for thirty-nine years. I enjoy the parks, the  
24 Everglades, since I was a child. I like Jacqueline  
25 have noticed and experienced the difference in the

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1 Everglades. I take my children there all the time.

2 I think the politics need to be taken out of  
3 this. Al Gore, who is a true environmentalist, he'll  
4 hopefully be elected and save us from the Latin  
5 American Builders Association, whose whole goal is to  
6 asphalt Dade County, to destroy the quality of life we  
7 have enjoyed for so long.

8 I think it's all politics and we need to  
9 stand up and kick them out.

10 Alex Penelas and the county commission is  
11 full of cronies and the fact that we have allowed them  
12 to do so shows the kind of condition we are in. We  
13 should be ashamed of the County government, and the  
14 people in North Dade should spend more time in the  
15 parks or leave the State of Florida. It's a beautiful  
16 state, and we'd like to keep it that way.

17 Thank you very much.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Peter Baljet.

19 000110 PETER BALJET: Mr. Chairman, distinguished  
20 members of the Air Force, audience. I am Peter  
21 Baljet. I appear before you as a concerned citizen.  
22 I am the former director of the Florida State  
23 Department of Pollution Control and also the former  
24 director of the Dade County Department of  
25 Environmental Resources Management.

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COMMENTS

1 I am here to support the redevelopment of
2 Homestead Air Force Base, and I would like to clarify
3 my position. I am pleased, first of all, that the
4 Environmental Impact Statement disclosed that a
5 commercial airport in Miami-Dade County will not
6 adversely affect our environment, but I have to say
7 that my recommendation would have been to proceed with
8 the development.

9 I am basing that on the fact that for once
10 we have the opportunity to create a desperately needed
11 public project, incorporating the joint interests of
12 many key disciplines of our society.

13 My tenure as a defender of air quality in
14 Florida for a long, long time has been very tough. We
15 will always be one step behind, and here, when the
16 quality started to deteriorate, we created the Air
17 Implementation Plan.

18 When the phosphates contaminated Dade County
19 canals, we provided funds and created the Phosphates
20 Deterrent Ordinance.

21 The phosphate mining -- (inaudible.)

22 COLONEL McSHANE: Let's hope that was all.

23 If it persists, we'll take a break and track down the
24 problem.

25 Sir, if you want to repeat that or take a

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1 little more time, you certainly can do that.

2 PETER BALJET: The point that I was making --
3 COLONEL McSHANE: Let's just take a short
4 break. I find that it is a good time for a comfort
5 break, if you will. Let's take about five minutes and
6 then we'll come back and finish up.

7 (Short recess taken.)

8 COLONEL McSHANE: We are ready to proceed
9 with our speaker.

10 PETER BALJET: I'll come right to the point.
11 I have a written statement to enter in the record. I
12 am just concerned, and I base it on my experience as a
13 regulator and as a professional for many, many years,
14 that a project of this nature, if we stop it today, it
15 will certainly take place tomorrow, and that is
16 because the population in Dade County is not going to
17 stand still.

18 The pressure for this project years from now
19 will be so great, that the same politicians that are
20 here today saying "Stop the jobs," are going to be
21 joining forces with development and industry to make
22 this project happen. At what cost at that time? My
23 prediction is that the environment will absolutely and
24 surely take a great step backward.

25 So I call on the regulators of today and the

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1 conservation organizations to join forces, look at
2 this project and come up with an outcome that's
3 acceptable to both the environment and the community.

4 Thank you very much.

5 COLONEL McSHANE: Ginger Raspiller.

6 000111 GINGER RASPILLER: Thank you.

7 My name is Ginger Raspiller. I am a member
8 of various organizations in the community, but I am
9 here today because I care about the people in this
10 community and our quality after life. I believe too
11 many decisions on South Florida are being made by
12 developers or politicians who are more concerned about
13 their wealth and gain than they are about the
14 community and quality of life for the people in this
15 community.

16 As a community, we are -- are doing a great
17 job. In the past week alone there have been two
18 feature stories highlighting some of the problems with
19 our parks. The New Times reported on the pitiful
20 situation with the City of Miami parks. In the City
21 inventory, they didn't even include their prime parks,
22 Virginia Key and Bicentennial Park, because they are
23 trying to develop it or sell them both. They
24 mentioned a Dade County parking lot and even a
25 cemetery as a park.

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1 The few parks they have in the city are
2 derelict and they are locked, inaccessible to the
3 public.

4 In the Miami Herald the story talked about
5 the lack of trees in the community is well below what
6 most cities of this size in our nation have. It's not
7 a surprise to any us of who live here. We've paved
8 over much of our land already.

9 In spite of the sad state of many of our
10 local parks in our community, we are very fortunate
11 that we have not one, but two national parks and the
12 Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary right in our doorstep.
13 The Everglades is considered so ecologically
14 significant that we are going to spend billions of
15 dollars to restore it and protect it.

16 As a community we are going to help pay for
17 that and well we should. As a community what will be
18 our contribution to Biscayne and Everglades National
19 Parks? That will be our legacy.

20 Do we want to be known as a community that
21 built a major commercial airport next to two national
22 parks? I don't think so. I know I don't.

23 The noise pollution, water pollution and air
24 pollution will hurt the wildlife in their habitat and
25 destroy the serenity of our national parks.

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1 Therefore, my opinion is that it just  
2 doesn't make sense. It's not appropriate. It's the  
3 wrong place for a large commercial airport.

4 Are we concerned about the good people in  
5 Homestead and their livelihood? Absolutely. Is the  
6 answer to their problems a mayor commercial airport  
7 next to Biscayne and Everglades National Parks?  
8 Absolutely not.

9 As a community we should be looking for  
10 pollution solutions that help the people of Homestead  
11 and preserve and protect our national parks and our  
12 quality of life. So I ask you not to develop this as  
13 a commercial air base.

14 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.

15 Next card I have is Margi Buster. She spoke  
16 already this morning. We'll pass on by.

17 Ken Swanberg.

18 000112 KEN SWANBERG: My name is Ken Swanberg. I am  
19 a member of the community here. I enjoy sailing on  
20 Biscayne Bay. I enjoy the serenity of the Everglades  
21 and Biscayne National parks. I would hate to lose  
22 that. Do not build an airport in Homestead.

23 The Air Force does not need to be an enabler  
24 to the developers and politicians in South Florida to  
25 help them screw up our environment and quality of

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1 life. Lord knows by what you see around us and what  
2 you read in the papers that they are doing a good  
3 enough job on their own.

4 I care about the people of Homestead. I ask  
5 that the Air Force, and I ask the powers that be to  
6 try to find another solution.

7 Thank you.

8 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.

9 Karsten Rist.

10 000113 KARSTEN RIST: My name is Karsten Rist. I am  
11 president of the Tropical Audubon Society, and I have  
12 problems with the SEIS.

13 My first problem is that the document  
14 focuses on one hundred operations and a maximum of  
15 twenty-one thousand flights a year which may be  
16 attained by the year 2015.

17 Presumably the new SEIS was created to allow  
18 us to make a meaningful decision as to whether an  
19 additional runway should be built and more flights  
20 should be taken off from Homestead.

21 The question is: Who are we kidding? There  
22 is an investment needed in the infrastructure required  
23 to get the two hundred thirty-one thousand flights  
24 going. Surely we are not very likely to then make a  
25 decision this is the wrong place to have an airport.

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1 If it were to happen that in 2015 the  
2 decision would go against additional flights out of  
3 Homestead, then that would show that we made the right  
4 decision in the first place meaning, now.

5 The obvious answer is that we should have a  
6 plan of more length than fifteen years, and the SEIS  
7 should address that question, because otherwise it  
8 cannot be the basis of a meaningful decision at this  
9 time.

10 My second concern relates to the lack of  
11 information on PAHs, and that's the gunk that we see  
12 when an airplane takes off in MIA. It is quite  
13 visible as you drive into town. It's the solids that  
14 remain of unburned fuel when the airplanes take off.

15 People who live under the flight path of MIA  
16 know that under certain conditions these PAHs settle  
17 down on their property and their cars that are parked  
18 outside, and under circumstances you can develop some  
19 medical conditions. If you live under the flight path  
20 of MIA, you can run your hand over the windshield of  
21 the car and you have black oily gunk on your fingers,  
22 and that is the PAHs.

23 The SEIS states that the value sources of  
24 PAH to concentration settlement is not known. I don't  
25 believe that is a satisfactory answer. We can make a

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1 reasonable estimate of how much fuel the airplanes  
2 that take-off from Homestead will burn and we know  
3 what is the efficiency that fuel is being burned at,  
4 and you can certainly calculate how many tons of black  
5 gunk will be dumped into Biscayne Bay.

6 Thank you.

7 000114 SANDRA FERNANDEZ: Good afternoon. My name  
8 is Sandra Fernandez. I am a life long resident of  
9 Dade County, and I love this town. I am proud to be a  
10 member of the Sierra Club, although my views here  
11 today are my own. I do not represent the club.

12 I attended the hearing last night at South  
13 Dade High School and I heard from a lot of people who  
14 would have you believe that if the airport was built  
15 in Homestead, that all of a sudden out of nowhere  
16 thirty-eight thousand jobs with average annual  
17 salaries of thirty-four thousand dollars a year are  
18 going to fall in their lap.

19 I have to wonder, are these people qualified  
20 to even step into those jobs?

21 I know what it's like to be unemployed. I  
22 lost my job last week. There are a lot of you who are  
23 looking for jobs, and you should try looking in the  
24 Miami Herald. There are thousands of jobs here in the  
25 Herald. If you don't have the skills to get the jobs,

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COMMENTS

1 go to school to get them. If you don't speak Spanish,  
2 go to school to learn it. I did. Its helped me to  
3 get jobs.

4 There are a lot of jobs specifically in the  
5 medical field in Dade County, that are looking for  
6 people to fill them, and also the sales profession.

7 Folks, this is ruining the environment.  
8 Converting Homestead Air Force Base into a commercial  
9 airport is not the way to produce jobs. The South  
10 Dade residents who are here to say they want the  
11 airport and the jobs that they will create are the  
12 same people that will sell the homes at a loss to  
13 escape the noise, pollution, congestion and traffic.  
14 It will create a mass exodus to Broward similar to  
15 what we had after Hurricane Andrew.

16 The poor people who can't afford electric  
17 dryers, they can't hang their clothes to dry in the  
18 yard.

19 Conclusion: I am supporting the  
20 Collier/Hoover plan. I think it makes a lot more  
21 sense and it protects our beautiful national parks for  
22 our future generations to enjoy.

23 Thank you.

24 COLONEL McSHANE: Laurie Levitan.

25 000115 LAURIE LEVITAN: Good afternoon. My name is

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1 Laurie Levitan with the "ROC Association", and a  
2 member of the Sierra Club. I've lived in South Dade  
3 for twenty-one years. My husband has lived here all  
4 his life.

5 This commercial airport is a bad idea. It's  
6 driven by the greed of politicians and developers who  
7 don't care if they trash our two exclusive national  
8 parks. They have not yet offered any environmental  
9 protection from the deafening noise or the bird  
10 migration and as we know, we lost enough bird life  
11 here.

12 They have not offered any environmental  
13 protection plan, because they can't. You cannot  
14 mitigate when you have jets blasting over the national  
15 park every few minutes at under a mile of altitude.  
16 There is no way to protect from that.

17 Walls will not do anything. They can't protect from  
18 the noise. It will drive away tourism from Biscayne  
19 National Park and Everglades National Park and noise  
20 will ruin the quality of life for Homestead residents.

21 They are simply trading tourism for urban  
22 ugliness, deafening noise, the sight of trucks and  
23 warehouses, loss of agricultural land that will get  
24 paved over by this.

25 I endorse the mixed use plan, the

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1 Collier/Hoover plan, because it's environmentally  
2 friendly. Its people friendly. It will be  
3 attractive. It won't be destructive. I hope you take  
4 that into consideration.

5 Thank you.

6 COLONEL McSHANE: Nancy Sullivan.

7 John Minore will be next.

8 000116 NANCY SULLIVAN: Could I use that podium?

9 Thanks. I came to your meeting last night  
10 with my neighbors from Key Largo. We were firmly  
11 behind the Hoover/Collier plan. We elected to have  
12 two people speak for us, over two hundred of us.

13 I came to the meeting with high expectations  
14 and left in disbelief. I had heard of politics in  
15 South Dade, but had never seen it in action.

16 The hefty lobbyist of Mayor Penelas and  
17 Senator Graham's people were there in force. At one  
18 point I thought maybe the mayor of Jacksonville was  
19 going to be the next speaker.

20 The hearings are to here for people  
21 affected, not Senator Graham.

22 Miami Lakes neighbors -- all the reasons  
23 that the Miami Lakes people have against an airport in  
24 their area are the same for the Largo people, only we  
25 have added threats, two national parks.

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1 I ask you, please, put politics aside in  
2 your mission. Your mission is clear. Listen to the  
3 counter evidence on two reports that say the dangers  
4 to this area.

5 You have a job corp on your property. Now,  
6 educate the people of South Dade, plumbers,  
7 carpenters, computer experts, so that when the ground  
8 is broken on the Hoover/Collier plan, the people of  
9 Homestead will be ready with skills to succeed.

10 If the airport is developed, my quality of  
11 life and that of South Dade will be destroyed. A  
12 plane every two to five minutes over my house is  
13 unthinkable.

14 When you were given your mission, Gentlemen,  
15 nowhere that I know were you asked to create a mixed  
16 airport for the overflow from Miami International.  
17 When the airport is at capacity, it will be at  
18 capacity. Tourism will still flourish.

19 I wish there was some way that your  
20 reservist and local pilots can all get together one  
21 day and fly six hundred flights over the path you've  
22 indicated. Let the people of South Dade, Upper Keys  
23 and someone visiting our national park see the reality  
24 of what an airport complex could mean to them.

25 Believe me, you will here a roar, not a jet engine,

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1 but from the human cries of: No.

2 Visit the parks again. Ride to the Keys.

3 Think of that film you saw today. Please don't let

4 local and state politics rule your decision.

5 000117 JOHN MINORE: My name is John Minore. I've

6 lived down here all my life and I worked at Miami

7 International Airport for a little while. The places

8 I've worked, the drinking water there had fuel in it,

9 which we weren't allowed to drink, so they would give

10 us bottle water or we had to buy sodas.

11 I used to be in the Air Force. I used to

12 work on F-15 aircrafts at Eglin Air Force Base. What

13 some of mechanics did after we changed the jet engine,

14 with the excess fuel that comes out of the engine.

15 They walk across the grass with a bucket and they

16 would trip and there goes the fuel on the ground. I

17 can show you exactly where that was taking place at

18 Eglin if you ever want to fly me up there, and cargo

19 aircrafts also are weighed down.

20 F-16s have the same engine F-15s have. They

21 have to climb and get off the ground a lot quicker,

22 getting a lot more altitude quieter as they get

23 higher.

24 I also understand there is a contract

25 awarded with a no bid process, which seems unfair. I

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1 am totally against the airport there.

2 I also fish and dive in both parks and it is

3 beautiful and it is nice and serene and I would like

4 it to say that way. As a matter of fact, I would like

5 you to keep the Air Force base as it is, no

6 development at all.

7 That's all I've got to say.

8 Thank you.

9 COLONEL McSHANE: Mavis Richards. The next

10 card is Jacqueline Vizzi.

11 000118 MAVIS RICHARDS: My name is Mavis Richards.

12 I am speaking on behalf of the "ROC." They are a

13 civic association.

14 I must first of all give credit to Katie

15 Sorenson on her views and her wisdom on her statements

16 made. My concern is for the environment. Very few of

17 us who study, I would dare to say, the environment and

18 its intricacies, would know the devastating effect

19 that the airport would have if such a thing is allowed

20 to be developed.

21 We think of finances mostly. Few people

22 think of the environment, where we have to live, and

23 the effects on the birds, animals and to say nothing

24 of humanity. We don't think of the children. We

25 don't think of babies who are born in Florida with

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1 lung tissues which are not developed. They have to

2 breath all this junk from the airport. They will grow

3 up with defective lungs, which they will suffer with

4 for the rest of their lives.

5 Let us not think of finances only, because

6 once this is done we cannot reverse the project, it is

7 there to stay.

8 Then we have to think of pollution.

9 Somebody mentioned the Nuclear plant in New Jersey. I

10 lived in New York, and I know the fear that people

11 have day after day, what if. We have to think of

12 these things.

13 Agriculture has also been depleted. I have

14 been in Florida steady for the last ten years, and I

15 the things that I have seen, the changes, grass

16 disappearing, the plant houses and a few palm trees.

17 There is nothing to absorb the waste that even the

18 human body gives out. We don't know how nature works.

19 Even microscopic things in the environment take care

20 of some of the things to keep us healthy.

21 We have to think money is not the only

22 thing, and when you think of the frequency of those

23 planes, children's ears that the decibels are going to

24 destroy. We are going to have deaf children who will

25 suffer for all their lives.

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1 Think of those things. I have not prepared

2 a speech, but I am concerned. I live here and I know

3 what it is to be able to breath clean air. Let us

4 think of these things and not be pushed by developers,

5 capitalists. We have to remember the long term

6 effects that they would have, and if something has to

7 be done, I rather go with the mixed plan, but please

8 not the airport. We will live to regret it.

9 Thank you.

10 000119 JACQUELINE VIZZI: My name is Jacqueline

11 Vizzi. I am a professor and artist and teacher here

12 in Dade County. I used to live in Miami Beach and I

13 used to sit in my backyard and look at the beautiful

14 sky and my beautiful canals and all of a sudden these

15 huge planes would come and stop everything for

16 awhile.

17 After awhile I called the airport and told

18 them, but when the fish are dying in front of us, who

19 is going to be doing that? When the birds have moved

20 out of the Everglades, who is going to do that? When

21 the vegetation, when the urban sprawl, when all the

22 cars, all the trucks, all the garbage that goes around

23 an airport, because check out our airport here in

24 Miami. It is full of garbage.

25 Who lives around there? No one.

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COMMENTS

Yes, you call the airport and they'll tell you, we'll check the route. That's what they need to do.

I am against the airport. Getting that airport would be like opening a Pandora's box. You are in for a lot of problems that will be coming.

Thank you.

COLONEL McSHANE: Ronald C. Dutton.

000120 RONALD DUTTON: My name is Ronald C. Dutton. I'd just like to go on the record saying I am opposed to the airport.

I digress a little bit. As few others said, I was born and raised here in 1936. My mother was born and raised here. Since 1995 I have seen a lot of changes in Dade County, and I can't say most of them are for the best. I've learned a little bit. I listened to Katie Sorensen's presentation and I think she's top notch.

Of the Hoover/Collier plan, what impresses me the most is that she said that it would take it out of the local government's hands and put it on the federal level. I think that's probably the best thing that can happen. It will take all the money that seems to get misappropriated through the local politicians, would take it out of their hands. They

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wouldn't have access to it or not as much as if as they would with the airport.

The way it was awarded, HABDI from the Latin Builders Association or whatever you want to call it.

I worked extensively through Central American and the Caribbean Islands and see the governments how they work there, and I am sorry to say here in Dade County we are a Banana Republic and doing the same thing.

COLONEL McSHANE: Kay Rosendahl.

000121 KAY ROSENDAHL: I am Kay Rosendahl. I own a house approximately on Old Outlier and 216 Street. That's about as far south as you can get without going to Homestead.

I am concerned about the air traffic and the environment. I am also concerned about unemployment, because let's face it, it is not a proven statistic number they are giving. They have forgotten about the people who are homeless, that are not on unemployment. I am one of the people that has been unemployed since October.

You think it's easy to find a job? It is not. I was informed on the 1st of November that it was going to take four to six months to find a job. I thought they were crazy. I now realize they know what

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they were talking about.

We need jobs, but the Collier and the Hoover Groups, they haven't considered the problems with the roads. We don't have roads to maintain the business traffic that they would need to go to the airport. That's Number 1.

All these plans have problems. The airport has a problem. It is going to affect the parks. There is no way around it. It will affect the parks.

So what do you need to do? You need to look and maybe you need to put some restructure on whatever you make the decision to do with this land, but something has to be done to improve the three options that have already been given, because none of them are to our advantages.

I want to see my property increase in value, not decrease. It's already at a point where it can't go any lower.

So please look into these things and see if there is something that someone can come up with a better plan, because they have to consider the roads. They have to consider the parks. They have to consider people in the neighborhoods and this land.

Thank you.

COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.

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COLONEL McSHANE: George Alexander.

000122 GEORGE ALEXANDER: My name is George Alexander. I am a board member of the Kendall Federation of Homeowners, although I am not speaking in support of them tonight.

First of all, I want to tell you thank God for Katie Sorenson. If it wasn't for her, we wouldn't be here.

I want to speak on a subject. I lived on the flight path in Kennedy Airport, and every time I was standing on my backyard, I would see five planes, one right behind the other, coming down at about two hundred feet above my house.

Believe me, it is not a very pleasant situation. You won't enjoy it very much, you people living in Homestead.

I want to say about the traffic. Traffic is going only one way from the airport, if you have a cargo airport, and that is going north. We have just two roads, the Turnpike and US-1.

If you've ever traveled US-1, and I know you have, you know what it is to take a fifty minute ride to get to Miami. It will take you sometimes an hour and sometimes an hour and a quarter to get up to Miami from Kendall where I live.

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1 We have to understand that these trucks that  
 2 will be coming out of Homestead Cargo Airport Base  
 3 will make a big, big difference in how long it will  
 4 take us to get up to the Miami area or up north.  
 5 The same thing will happen on the Turnpike.  
 6 Traffic will be at a standstill. It is at a  
 7 standstill now. It will be much, much worse with all  
 8 the trucks coming out of the air cargo airport.  
 9 Thank you.  
 10 COLONEL McSHANE: Donald Groh.  
 11 000123 DONALD GROH: Hello. Good afternoon. My  
 12 name is Donald Groh. I live on 7925 Southwest 201  
 13 Terrace in Miami, Florida. I was born here. I am a  
 14 native. I work and live in South Dade.  
 15 I manage commercial property. That's my  
 16 business. I am here to support the airport. We need  
 17 the airport. It doesn't take a whole lot of common  
 18 sense just to go down to South Dade, walk through some  
 19 of the strip centers, and look and see how many empty  
 20 spaces there are available. Look and see how many  
 21 people are hanging out on the street corners without  
 22 jobs, and talk to some of these business owners and  
 23 see if they've made any money lately.  
 24 Since Hurricane Andrew, and since the Air  
 25 Force has closed the base, we've gone through

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1 dozens -- dozens of businesses failing. These are  
 2 just mom and pop businesses who have their dreams and  
 3 spent their entire life savings trying to make the  
 4 American dream -- trying to realize the American  
 5 dream.  
 6 It's not happening in South Dade. While the  
 7 rest of the country is relishing in economic  
 8 prosperity, South Dade is still in a major recession.  
 9 Why is that? Because the Air Force -- Air  
 10 Force closed the base.  
 11 Now, I know you need to make cuts. South  
 12 Com moved from their operation in Panama. They moved  
 13 to Puerto Rico. They didn't even want them in Puerto  
 14 Rico. We wanted them here. Why didn't they come and  
 15 bring their base and revitalize the base here?  
 16 You can't answer that question, but you can  
 17 do something now. You can help revitalize, rejuvenate  
 18 the economy down here with the airport being the  
 19 driving economic force.  
 20 I don't think these other alternatives are  
 21 realistic, market driven. If the supply and demand is  
 22 market driven, why aren't businesses coming down to  
 23 South Dade? They are not. There are thousands and  
 24 thousands of acres of land they could buy down in  
 25 South Dade. They can come down here and buy up that

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1 land and build these office complexes and golf  
 2 courses. They are not. It isn't going to happen.  
 3 That's not realistic.  
 4 We ask you for your help today and we need  
 5 your help to help revitalize the economy down in South  
 6 Dade, so we can realize our dreams.  
 7 Thank you.  
 8 COLONEL McSHANE: Alice Smith.  
 9 000124 ALICE SMITH: I have been talking at these  
 10 meetings now every time we've had one, which isn't  
 11 that often, but since this started seven years ago  
 12 there were meetings. If we had at that time done this  
 13 properly, if our officials had done it properly at  
 14 that time, you wouldn't even be here today. We would  
 15 have heard about it, and we didn't know about a thing.  
 16 Even today we don't know the full impact of  
 17 what that would do for us. In fact, it is my  
 18 privilege in the next two weeks to host a meeting with  
 19 Collier so that people in our area can get to know  
 20 what they can offer us. This should have been done  
 21 ages ago when they first came in, but our officials  
 22 wanted to keep that quiet. We don't hear about that.  
 23 I live within five miles of the base. I  
 24 live in Keys Gate. I don't represent Keys Gate.  
 25 However, I can tell you that last week we took a vote

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1 on the airport and it was unanimous, at the single  
 2 family homeowners' meeting, that we don't want an  
 3 airport.  
 4 We have beautiful birds. I love this  
 5 island. This morning I was having my breakfast at  
 6 twenty after 9:00, a little late but the meeting was  
 7 late last night, and a roar of planes came over. It  
 8 was ten minutes only, but it was enough so that my  
 9 husband and I could not speak to each other.  
 10 Yes, we live on the porch. We want to stay  
 11 outside. We don't want to go in. We want to enjoy  
 12 the calm serenity of the area.  
 13 I do wish -- I invite all of you military  
 14 people to come to my home and see what it is like and  
 15 imagine what it could possibly be.  
 16 Homestead, after the hurricane, I was here  
 17 then. We lost forty percent in Homestead of our  
 18 population, mainly because a lot of people came and  
 19 retired there, because of the hospital and other  
 20 benefits. We only have twenty-seven thousand people  
 21 in Homestead right now. I don't know what we are  
 22 going to do with thirty-eight thousand jobs, but we do  
 23 need jobs and we need the economy.  
 24 What we need is better schools. People do  
 25 not come down here and live here because they can't

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COMMENTS

1 educate their children in Homestead. We have two of  
2 the worse schools in the country.

3 I guess my time is up, but thank you for  
4 letting me talk and if you'd like to come, my house is  
5 open to you, and I'd like you to come at twenty after  
6 9:00 tomorrow morning please.

7 000125 FERNANDO PRO, JR.: My name is Fernando Pro,  
8 Jr. I am better known as Chappy. I think the one  
9 thing that we must all agree on is that there is only  
10 one question. We must improve the environment and the  
11 earth that we live in. That's a given. Anyone who  
12 doesn't understand that is not where they should be.

13 The other thing is: Must we have an  
14 airport? Well, the case can be made that in the  
15 future we are going to need this and we are going to  
16 need that. That tells me that that's going to mean  
17 that the problem that's been going on in this city is  
18 that of overdevelopment. We are not prepared. The  
19 schools are not prepared, and the roads. We are  
20 having problems even trying to take care of what is  
21 already here.

22 I hear this stuff about jobs. When you are  
23 talking about that, I think thirty-eight thousand  
24 jobs? I am going to tell you something. If you  
25 believe that this is going to bring thirty-eight

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1 thousand jobs for people in Homestead, you are in a  
2 fantasy world.

3 What it means -- if you see the other plans,  
4 coupled with more homes and stuff, that's for the new  
5 people that will come in to take the majority of jobs  
6 there. So if you think back, and go talk to some of  
7 the people in Kissimmee where Disney World is, you  
8 talk to the people that were there when this thing  
9 first started, and they thought that they were going  
10 to have a wonderful thing happen to them, and the old  
11 timers that were there at the time, that were hoping  
12 for these jobs, they will tell you that at one time  
13 they had a very nice place to live, a very nice  
14 village, and that now has been ruined.

15 But the main point is: What will protect the  
16 environment, since that's what we must do? What is  
17 more environmentally friendly? What plan is more  
18 friendly? What plan is something that we may actually  
19 end up with?

20 What I propose to you is that the Collier  
21 plan at this time is in its very nature environmentally  
22 friendly.

23 The other thing is -- I am sorry. I didn't  
24 say that I am here with Cutler Ridge Concerned  
25 Citizens. I am not here just representing myself. We

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1 look at it from two angles. One, what is most  
2 environmental mentally friendly and what has got  
3 problems to be environmental friendly?

4 A lot has been said about the fact that the  
5 plans, that it could be, that it could bring the jobs,  
6 it could not hurt the environment, but there is a lot  
7 of life in the plan.

8 Now, the thing to remember is that the  
9 Collier plan in itself demands and it will help their  
10 businesses keep the environmental cleanliness people  
11 want here.

12 The airport plan that is backed by the very  
13 people that have the contract to do the job and the  
14 way they got the contract, I wouldn't -- I just I  
15 cannot trust that they will follow and do what is best  
16 for the environment.

17 So I am very clear. We support the Collier  
18 plan, because it is the closest thing we can get to a  
19 win-win situation for the citizens down there.

20 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.  
21 Alicia Schreiber.

22 000126 ALICIA SCHREIBER: Good afternoon. I am  
23 Executive Director of Community Development and Acting  
24 City Manager for the City of Homestead.

25 Having grown up in South Dade County, in the

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1 heart of Matheson Hammocks, I am an abed water skier,  
2 scuba diver. I enjoy kayacking and I do that still  
3 today.

4 Later in my life I've come back to Homestead  
5 and the Homestead area, after having graduated as a  
6 civil engineer and city planner, and I came back to  
7 help rebuild their city and to help them after the  
8 devastation of losing the Air Force Base and the  
9 relocation of so many citizens. Not only did  
10 Homestead receive devastation, but there was something  
11 on top of that.

12 As a professional, there was a lack of jobs,  
13 and areas such as the Air Force Base that were left as  
14 a vacant homes. No one came back and touched them.

15 We look at projects, and we hear people  
16 come before us today and they talk of plans such as  
17 the Collier plan and other environmental plans.  
18 Before coming to the City of Homestead I had the  
19 pleasure of working for the Florida Department of  
20 Transportation for seven years, where we prepared  
21 SEISs.

22 Having read this particular document, I  
23 didn't find where they said to us there is an adverse  
24 environmental impact. I couldn't find places where  
25 they said it was going to endanger certain species or

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1 contaminate our water.

2 The Collier plan, have you looked and

3 thought, we are going to continue to build and we are

4 going to bring people from other parts of the city and

5 we are going to bring more traffic to the City of

6 Homestead? We are going to use more capacity of

7 water. We are going to use more capacity on our

8 sewer. Dade County can't support our sewer today.

9 There are all different impacts to the

10 community. You continue to use our water and you

11 continue to use the sewer, bringing more people might

12 not be the issue.

13 Bringing tourists that come and go sounds

14 like something that is good for our economy, it's good

15 for the City of Homestead, in bringing economic base

16 to a place that lost so much economic base.

17 I think all of us need to take a look at the

18 boards that are in the back there and look at

19 capacity, look at the noise levels that are projected

20 in SEIS and read what impact they are talking about,

21 and look at your own impact that you are proposing for

22 us, all different levels, all the different degrees,

23 but there are impacts.

24 Your golf courses, there is fertilizer

25 impacts. There is run-off impact. You are going to

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1 create areas like we already have existing.

2 As a citizen, and as a worker for the City

3 of Homestead, I believe strongly in this, that we need

4 an airport facility in Homestead for a multitude of

5 reasons that are outlined and people have stood up and

6 spoke about today.

7 Thank you.

8 000356 PAT WADE: I was born in Miami. I've lived

9 here all my life, only exceeded by a few years by Mr.

10 Dutton.

11 I live and own a plant nursery in South

12 Dade. I am on a faculty member of the University of

13 Miami Medical School.

14 I do not understand for the life of me the

15 shortsighted push for a commercial airport in South

16 Dade, specifically when the mixed use plan or plans

17 can provide the economic benefit that everybody talks

18 about without the down side, and that's the key.

19 I have not heard one person today come

20 forward and say that the other plans will not provide

21 the benefit -- a similar benefit.

22 Is not MIA engaged in noise abatement? Is

23 not MIA engaged in expansion? Is not MIA lagging

24 behind other airports in passenger and cargo growth?

25 Is not MIA plagued by corruption, waste and

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1 inefficiency? Why would we want such a beast in our

2 community?

3 I can speculate that a few rich and powerful

4 will become more so. I cannot help but think that

5 this is another power and greed, not economics, not

6 need, not quality of life and certainly not for the

7 environment.

8 I ask you to look at the pro-airport

9 politicians, bankers, builders and ask you who would

10 be the benefactor of this airport?

11 Dade County has been inflating for years

12 their population projections. If you don't believe

13 me, look at the Bureau of Census estimated by Dade

14 County, and look at the State of Florida projections

15 for Dade County.

16 Perhaps you are just learning about Dade

17 County politics, but we are fed up with it. Don't

18 hand Dade County this airport.

19 Thank you.

20 COLONEL McSHANE: Ed Meyer.

21 000127 ED MEYER: Good afternoon. I've read a lot

22 about the pros and cons of developing Homestead into a

23 commercial airport. However, I am missing something

24 really big in this equation, and that is, on one hand

25 we hear that they are going to be over two hundred

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1 thousand flights a year, putting us at a par with JFK.

2 On the other hand we hear absolutely nothing from the

3 airlines as to whether they support this development

4 at all.

5 I raise this issue, because in the case of

6 St. Louis, they built a reliever airport, which is a

7 big TWA hub. No one came. It sits vacant.

8 Before we spend any tax payers money, our

9 money, on the development of this commercial airport,

10 I'd like to know where the airlines stand on it.

11 Now, the Aviation Department is supposed to

12 bring the airlines into a stronger planning role as

13 part of the sixty-six million dollars that Dade County

14 is giving back the airlines. Now, if they are

15 bringing the airlines into a stronger planning role,

16 then let's get the answer before we spend any money.

17 Thank you.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Bernie Navarro.

19 000126 BERNIE NAVARRO: Ladies and Gentlemen,

20 welcome. My name is Bernie Navarro. I am the past

21 chairman of West Dade County Community Council 10.

22 A lot of growth has happened in that area,

23 and instead of bringing our growth toward the west, I

24 think we should make that growth go different ways, to

25 the south and alleviate traffic congestions all around

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1 Dade County by going the opposite direction. That's  
 2 Number 1.  
 3 Number 2, where I live, the flight path of  
 4 Miami International Airport is over the Everglades,  
 5 and no mention has ever been said about that. So we  
 6 live with it.  
 7 More people are buying homes where we live  
 8 and buying homes in the Doral area, Number 2.  
 9 Number 3, I think we are being held hostage  
 10 by the Hoover and Collier plan, by the sense that they  
 11 say they have the mining field of the Everglades and  
 12 Biscayne Bay if this project doesn't become approved.  
 13 So I think we are being held hostage, and I don't  
 14 think that's appropriate.  
 15 I am in favor of the airport and I feel it  
 16 should be supported for the benefit of this  
 17 community.  
 18 Thank you very much.  
 19 COLONEL McSHANE: Next cards I believe are of  
 20 individuals who spoke last night and signed up again  
 21 today to speak.  
 22 Manny Romero.  
 23 000129 MANNY ROMERO: Good afternoon. My name is  
 24 Manny Romero, and I reside at 26140 South Dixie  
 25 Highway, Naranja, Florida.

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1 I am trying to make a few observations about  
 2 the Collier plan. First of all, the Collier plan --  
 3 the Collier plan, for the last several months its been  
 4 trying to deal in Washington, completely bypassing  
 5 this community, to appropriate a public asset of this  
 6 community.  
 7 The Collier plan has tried to swap mineral  
 8 rights for closed military base properties in five or  
 9 six different communities, most recently in Orlando,  
 10 and it has been denied in each and every one of them.  
 11 The Collier plan in proposing two new golf  
 12 courses. We already have two golf courses, one in  
 13 Keys Gate and the other one in the Redlands. I don't  
 14 know, but has any study been done that they need any  
 15 other golf course?  
 16 The Collier plan is taking a portion of the  
 17 community, a part that belongs to South Dade  
 18 residents, who want to proceed with Dade County's  
 19 plan. The Collier plan is also appropriating land  
 20 designated to the school board, depriving the school  
 21 board of the valuable land at the base and  
 22 jeopardizing the federal and state funding for the  
 23 school.  
 24 That's why Dr. Phillips, President of Miami  
 25 Dade Community College, is for the airport.

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1 These are a few points that I see on the  
 2 Collier plan.  
 3 The Collier plan went to Dade County  
 4 hearings. They went up there and proposed their  
 5 proposal to the commissioners to be voted on like the  
 6 County proposal. Where were they four years ago?  
 7 The Colliers don't have enough of their own  
 8 county. They want to take our own county, Dade  
 9 County? It's ridiculous. This is really ridiculous.  
 10 I can't believe some people are talking  
 11 about greed and money. I tell you I've been shuttled  
 12 in and shuttled out because of this and because of  
 13 that.  
 14 I think it's greed. I think all of you are  
 15 right. This is greed. This is money. I think this  
 16 is ridiculous.  
 17 Thank you.  
 18 COLONEL McSHANE: Michael Mather is a new  
 19 name. We'll take him before we go to the other  
 20 repeats.  
 21 000130 MICHEAL MATHER: First of all, I'd say good  
 22 morning and thank you for the opportunity to come  
 23 before you. I don't envy the panel or the commission  
 24 with what they have to do, the fact that you have to  
 25 find a plan that's supported by the local community,

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1 finding a plan that has the best possible economic  
 2 revitalization program and protect the environment.  
 3 Some job.  
 4 As I see, the proposed action is flawed in  
 5 the fact that just by observing last night and this  
 6 morning, the proposed action is not a plan that's  
 7 supported by the local community.  
 8 Obviously, there are a lot of things with  
 9 our political leaders, with the community leaders and  
 10 with the residents on the airport plan.  
 11 The proposed action, I see a serious problem  
 12 with the existing infrastructure. It is not going to  
 13 be able to support it. I realize also that the  
 14 current operations at the base cannot go on and will  
 15 justify additional operations, but the thing that  
 16 bothers me the most is that in South Dade the primary  
 17 industry is agriculture.  
 18 In Dade County the Number 2 industry is  
 19 agriculture. I think that building an infrastructure  
 20 that's going to be needed to support the commercial  
 21 airport is going to just totally decimate the  
 22 agriculture industry.  
 23 I ask the question, we have an industry that  
 24 brings in approximately nine hundred million dollars  
 25 per year and we are going to take a gamble on the

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1 jobs?

2 I noticed in the Draft, the words "Could

3 bring thirty-eight thousand jobs." We are taking a

4 gamble. We are decimating an industry that's proven

5 to be profitable for one that we don't know what is

6 going to happen.

7 I know that there has been a lot of people

8 who say that all the retirees object and seem to be

9 wealthy and old. I am not old. I am not retiring,

10 and obviously I am not white.

11 So I ask this be reviewed and that the

12 action -- that the action that is taken will

13 definitely go forth in the commission to find (A) A

14 plan supported by the community and (B) That it brings

15 an economic revitalization and protects our

16 environment.

17 Like I said, I don't envy you at all.

18 Thank you for the time.

19 COLONEL McSHANE: Next name is Mercedes

20 Sellek.

21 000131 MERCEDES SELLEK: Good afternoon, Colonel.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to speak again.

23 I won't burden the record with repeat

24 remarks. I wanted to address a couple of other issues

25 that I've been hearing people speak on.

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1 The first issue I'd like to address is the

2 no bid win of the proposed developer for the airport

3 proposal, HABDI.

4 Something that people may not know is that

5 the County brought in over forty different development

6 firms from around the world, that were aviation

7 experts and managers in airports, paraded them through

8 Homestead Air Force Base after Hurricane Andrew

9 destroyed it.

10 When the federal government began discussion

11 with the County as a proposed conveyance to the

12 County, and all the companies said, "We'll be happy to

13 do it. Give us the money."

14 We said, "You put in the money and we lease

15 it back to you and we work it out that way."

16 All the companies said: No.

17 We ended up with two proposals, Grace Group

18 and Homestead Air Force Developer Group, Inc.

19 proposal. The HABDI proposal was the adopted

20 proposal. The numbers that they proposed were viable,

21 and that was the alternative that was chosen by the

22 commission in a public setting, in a public hearing

23 and by a public vote..

24 With concern to the environmental impacts

25 that we've addressed, water quality is improved by the

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1 Surface Water Management Plan. It's improved by

2 twenty-eight percent, it decreases discharged directly

3 into the bay.

4 If you look at the Collier/Hoover plan, you

5 see thousands of canals with no potential on-site

6 storage. So you have run off and mitigation issues

7 that aren't being addressed.

8 With respect to the air quality, the

9 proposed action pursuant to the SEIS shows there will

10 only be .6 increase in air emission which would exceed

11 federal levels.

12 I would propose that the proposed action is

13 a viable plan with mitigation alternatives in place

14 and it would be the better alternative than the

15 Collier/Hoover plan which continuous changes at a whim

16 of the people and does not proffer something tangible

17 that can be reviewed and discussed.

18 Thank you.

19 000132 KAREN SALES: My name is Karen Sales. I just

20 had to comment on the Collier/Hoover plan. I've heard

21 a few people that have supported it, apart from the

22 fact that the SEIS reported that it is the least job

23 intensive alternative. That's a quote, least job

24 intensive alternative.

25 The Colliers say they are going to pay or

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1 swap the mineral rights for the land, yet the value of

2 the mineral rights seem to be questionable.

3 In 1998 the Collier draft had some land and

4 retained the mineral rights. The mineral rights were

5 of no concern to the government, because oil drilling

6 is too regulated and the mineral rights were of little

7 value.

8 Why give away the land to the Collier family

9 to own outright? Why not leave the land to have the

10 County of Miami-Dade own it. The land is ours. We

11 want very control over the property. The County will

12 own the land and we have to abide by the rules.

13 Let's not give the land away to the Colliers

14 who in the past have threatened to start drilling oil

15 without caring for the environment.

16 Thank you.

17 COLONEL McSHANE: Jamie Brown.

18 000133 JAMIE BROWN: Good afternoon. I also want to

19 address a couple of issues that have been impressed

20 upon me as I've been listening to testimony

21 specifically today.

22 Just a word of advise for those who are

23 trying to make an argument with a straight face that

24 the area around Homestead is not in need of economic

25 development. That's a futile argument to make. You

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are not going to be able to.

The poverty rate here in Homestead, thirty percent of the people live below the poverty level, Florida City thirty-seven percent.

Last year the federal government made the Homestead area part of a Federal Empowerment Zone. That's not done to an area that's on the rise and it's not in need of a major hand.

Also, last year Andrew Cuomo gave a speech in April to talk about the few remaining pockets of poverty that have been left behind in this wonderful economy. One of the specific areas that he cited was South Dade, the Homestead/Florida City area.

This is a federally acknowledged problem and no facts can be used to dispute that. It's impossible.

The other thing that I wanted to mention is that the Collier plan, which is really a lot of smoke and mirrors, has some significant problems for this county and its citizens. If this land is given to the Colliers, they have no obligation to do squat with it. They can bank the land and those problems that the community is facing will remain unresolved. That's something that needs to be taken seriously by everybody in this county and the leadership.

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The other thing, even in a best case scenario, that they did put some kind of proposal in there, the jobs that it will provide are so significantly reduced in number and quality from the airport proposal. The Collier proposal at its best case scenario, in full build out, would provide twenty-four thousand fewer jobs than the airport.

That's being fairly optimistic. The types of jobs you get are basically caddies and other types of jobs that we get if we build a park.

We have significantly fewer earnings with those jobs. Under the airport proposal you have more than one billion dollars in new earnings. The Collier proposal would provide six hundred million dollars less, only three hundred million dollars at full build out, with best case scenario, being optimistic, the need for a mobile home park and a third golf course out there.

I want you to focus on the facts that are in the SEIS about what kind of jobs and opportunities we would get with a proposal like that.

Thank you.

COLONEL McSHANE: Ignacio Sanchez.

000134 IGNACIO SANCHEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Ignacio Sanchez. I also would like to address a

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little bit about the Collier proposal, and I call it proposal because that is all it is. It is not a legitimate plan.

If you look at the back of the room, at the nice poster boards, all we see are an artist's renditions. This are no plan there. It changes weekly.

I was speaking to the architect beforehand and he has no idea how they are going to develop that. In fact, three weeks ago they didn't know the Hoovers were going to be a part of the process.

As you engage in the process of making a determination, you have to determine whether any of these are serious or not. There is nothing serious about this proposal.

Number 2, as I stated before, the golf courses, we have plenty of golf courses in South Florida and particularly in this area.

I have great concern with respect to the Collier plan. That plan is filled with drenching millions of tons of soil that are going to be moved, but there is no mention of what they are going to do with it.

If the citizens of South Dade are worried about Mount Trashmore, as we call it, they ought to be

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worried about where that soil is going to go and in what state it will be in.

In fact, I project within four or five years or so its impossible to build. We can't build these canals and therefore now that we own it a fee simple title, now that MIA is at capacity, they will hold this county up for ransom in order to set that property up as a commercial airport.

I challenge every one to look at that plan and tell me it doesn't look like an airport. If you lay over on it asphalt, if you take the canals, the airport is set up in a way that has the hotels off of the runway, the golf course area and Avis and Hertz rental parking lot.

The Colliers have gone to eight different communities and tried to pull off this kind of land swap. All eight communities have said: We are not interested in your bag of beads. That is what they are trying to pull off with Dade County.

They've been rebuffed in all eight communities and they should be rebuffed here also.

Thank you.

COLONEL McSHANE: Salomon Esquenazi.

000135 SALOMON ESQUENAZI: Good afternoon, Colonel. My name is Salomon Esquenazi. We've heard several

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1 people say that they want the Collier proposal because  
2 that is an alternative to the airport plan.

3 Whenever I hear the Collier plan, I can only  
4 think of two things, golf courses and RV park. In  
5 fact, out of the six hundred eighty acres that the  
6 Collier proposal wishes to exchange for this so called  
7 mineral rights, whatever that is, three hundred  
8 eighty-three acres equates to fifty-six percent of the  
9 land that is subjected to these proposed transfers  
10 will be used exactly for that golf course and RV  
11 park.

12 Now, I am not an abet golf player. From  
13 time to time I play golf. In the golf courses there  
14 is a golf shop. There are one or two people that are  
15 administrative. Sometimes they have golf caddies and  
16 the rest is staff that takes care of the premises,  
17 gardening and such. That's it.

18 The other side is the RV park. Again, you  
19 only have a couple of administrative people and the  
20 rest is maintenance. That is it. There is no  
21 employment there.

22 According to the SEIS, the Collier plan is  
23 estimated to be the least job intensive alternative  
24 out of all the plans. It is estimated that the  
25 Collier plan will generate fourteen thousand jobs.

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1 That's twenty-four thousand jobs less than the airport  
2 proposal. That is also estimated to generate three  
3 hundred and fifty million dollars in revenue, which  
4 again is at least six hundred fifty million dollars  
5 less than the airport's proposal.

6 And even then, whatever jobs are in fact  
7 generated by the Collier proposal, those jobs are  
8 going to be low paying jobs, caddies, administrative  
9 people, et cetera.

10 You know, I've been listening very carefully  
11 to our community last night. I heard people  
12 repeatedly talk about jobs. Again today you hear  
13 people talking about jobs. This community needs jobs  
14 and more jobs.

15 It is therefore my opinion that the Collier  
16 plan will simply not generate the number and the kinds  
17 of jobs that this community is seeking. For that  
18 reason I urge you to transfer the base back to  
19 Miami-Dade County.

20 Thank you.

21 000136 HOWARD BEHAR: Good afternoon, and thank  
22 you.

23 My name is Howard Behar. I am a resident of  
24 Miami-Dade County. The Colliers have an absolutely  
25 incredible history of attempting to take away from

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1 cities real estate and developments all over the  
2 country.

3 The Colliers have continuously used their  
4 mineral rights in Big Cypress Preserve as a type of  
5 currency in order to obtain land from the federal  
6 government, but in actuality there is a big question  
7 as to what these mineral rights are worth. In  
8 actuality it is worth nothing.

9 I challenge a single environmentalist in  
10 this group or anybody for that matter who would permit  
11 oil drilling in Big Cypress Preserve today or even to  
12 tomorrow. Its absolutely unquestionable. It cannot  
13 happen and should not happen.

14 To the Collier, in actuality they are  
15 getting land, sixteen hundred acres, for the price of  
16 zero, nothing. That's wrong. That should not  
17 happen.

18 However, their attempt to use this as  
19 currency is not new for any developing company in the  
20 United States. They attempted to obtain the naval  
21 base in Orlando. The people in Orlando absolutely  
22 rejected this as a means to take away from the people  
23 of Orlando and hand it over to a private developer.

24 It happened in San Diego, in Orange County,  
25 the same thing. Let's swap the mineral rights, worth

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1 nothing, and take the property from the people of San  
2 Diego. The people of San Diego said, no, it's ours.  
3 It should go to us.

4 In each situation rather than the  
5 development company going to the local population,  
6 they attempt to take the land in fee simple, and then  
7 the first thing they do is go to Washington, then go  
8 back to the local population. Again, that's wrong.

9 Finally, let me state that the Colliers have  
10 made an application to drill eight hundred twenty-five  
11 square miles in Big Cypress Preserve. This is going  
12 to affect federally protected wilderness areas that  
13 are inhabited by Bald Eagles and Florida panthers.

14 I'd like to pose a question right now. Who  
15 is really looking out for the environment right now?

16 Thank you.

17 000137 BRUCE DRUM: My name is Bruce Drum, with the  
18 Dade County Aviation Department.

19 I'd just like to make a few observations and  
20 give you some more aviation insight.

21 From what I heard today, again, as I said  
22 last night, I support the process. This is a  
23 difficult issue for our community and we as aviation  
24 professionals will do our job no matter what happens,  
25 but let me add some professional aviation perspective,

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1 if I may.

2 First of all, the figures on the types of  
3 aircrafts and the numbers are estimates. They were  
4 put together by a development staff about three or  
5 four years ago in preparation of making a proposal to  
6 develop this airport.

7 The industry is rapidly changing. It has  
8 changed significantly in the last six months with the  
9 requirement of Stage 3 as of January 1st, as Dellapa  
10 said this morning.

11 Further enhancement will happen around 2004  
12 and 2005, and most of the aircrafts flying in Miami  
13 International will be at the brand new Stage 3. Some  
14 of the aircrafts now are 727s, but they will be  
15 replaced by brand new 737s and 820s.

16 The type of airline that will go into  
17 Homestead is a little bit different -- it is a  
18 personal opinion -- than what we originally saw two,  
19 three, four years ago.

20 Its been portrayed here that this is a cargo  
21 airport. That's not going to happen in my  
22 professional opinion. Folks, you don't move cargo  
23 from the infrastructure around Miami and move it,  
24 lock, stock and barrel overnight to an airport.

25 An airport such as Homestead has been

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1 proposed as a reliever airport, satellite airport, and  
2 I think you have a blueprint for what happens to  
3 satellite airports in California.

4 LAX is a big airport, and there are five  
5 satellite airports. That's the type of airport where  
6 you leave our home and catch a flight to a neighboring  
7 city using a lear jet or 737.

8 Cargo in our proposal four years ago was a  
9 very small portion. So its very inadequate to name  
10 this a cargo airport. This is not a cargo airport  
11 simply. Please keep that in mind.

12 One last comment, and one other point I want  
13 to make before my time is up, there is no tax payers  
14 money involved. This is coming from user fees that  
15 are generated from the airlines and, yes, we are in  
16 consultation with the airlines. They do play a part  
17 in this.

18 Who will come to Homestead? It will  
19 probably be some of your low cost carriers, because  
20 Homestead represents the low cost entry point in the  
21 future when the need is there.

22 My last thought is: No one is really talking  
23 about fifteen, twenty years, twenty-five years down  
24 the road, where are we going to put the airplanes,  
25 because we are the ones that get on airplanes. We are

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1 the ones that have relatives and get on airplanes. We  
2 are the ones that demand commerce. We are the  
3 problem, but I don't see anybody solving a capacity  
4 issue and that is a big part of this equation.

5 000138 JONATHAN ULLMAN: Good afternoon. My name is  
6 Jonathan Ullman. I am the South Florida Everglades  
7 Representative for National Sierra Club. We are the  
8 oldest and largest grass root environmental  
9 organization, about six hundred thousand members  
10 nationwide, and about three thousand members in  
11 Miami-Dade and Monroe County.

12 This is a big issue. This is an important  
13 issue. This is an issue that if you make the wrong  
14 decision, there is no turning back. It is gone.

15 I want you to think about the video that you  
16 saw today. As I was looking at that video, and we  
17 were laughing, but what were we laughing about? We  
18 were laughing at the comical nature of this entire  
19 situation that we are put into.

20 We have two national parks that are enjoyed  
21 by the American people, not just by the American  
22 people, but people worldwide. We are contemplating  
23 putting a commercial airport within a mile and a half  
24 of one of the parks and eight and a half miles from  
25 the other park.

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1 The first park being Biscayne National Park,  
2 an outstanding Florida water and the only national  
3 park in the continental United States.

4 The second is Everglades National Park,  
5 which we are about to embark on a 7.8 billion dollar  
6 restoration plan, because the environment is messed up  
7 and we need to fix it.

8 So now you are saying you are going to  
9 consider allowing Miami-Dade County, which we already  
10 established has quite a few problems in its other  
11 airport, Miami International, in terms of scandal.  
12 Every single day there is another scandal story coming  
13 out of Miami International. We are going to allow  
14 this county to sell out those national parks and we  
15 are going to have to explain when there are visitors  
16 who try to enjoy those national parks, that we allowed  
17 Miami-Dade County to do this.

18 That's not going to happen. We are going to  
19 be heard. Bruce Babet and Carol Browner say that this  
20 would be devastating. They do not want to see it  
21 here.

22 The Sierra Club is going to tell the rest of  
23 the country. We are launching a national campaign to  
24 tell the rest of the country what is going on down  
25 here, and they won't be amused. They won't find it

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1 comical, and I want to thank you and I'll talk to you  
 2 later.

3 Thank you.

4 COLONEL McSHANE: I've gone through all of  
 5 the cards that were presented to me today. Let me go  
 6 back and see if any of the folks who signed up today  
 7 have returned.

8 000139 BILL McHUGH: I am Bill McHugh. I am here to  
 9 vote for prevention of the airport. I am an ex-FAA  
 10 employee. I retired some ten years ago and  
 11 established a consulting firm for aviation  
 12 consultants.

13 While I was with the FAA, I was their expert  
 14 on their port compliance as well as seaport  
 15 certification inspection. I was also in Chicago at  
 16 the Miami Port District Office.

17 I participated for the FAA in the transfer  
 18 of two surplus properties, one in Detroit Metro in  
 19 1990 and the "Bacalar" Air Force Base at Columbus,  
 20 Indianapolis. That was a successful general aviation  
 21 airport.

22 Here in Miami there is a large demand for  
 23 aviation services and there are few facilities  
 24 remaining that can handle that demand.

25 Under the Homestead Air Force base there is

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1 a facility that is there. The infrastructure is there  
 2 to handle it and is available to be used for that  
 3 purpose.

4 The statistics are here in the back, as well  
 5 as the SEIS to show there is a need for this facility  
 6 and if this facility no good for an airport sooner or  
 7 later you are going to have to develop a facility for  
 8 it.

9 Based upon the track record in the last  
 10 twenty years as far as development of a new airport in  
 11 this area, there has been no new airport done other  
 12 than the training airport out in the Everglades.

13 You are going to have to do something about  
 14 it and this appears to be one of the best ways to get  
 15 a remedy to the aviation demand that you have in this  
 16 area.

17 Thank you.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: That's all the folks that  
 19 signed up today. Is there anybody here that signed up  
 20 last night that did not get to speak and was not here  
 21 earlier when I called all the names? Apparently not.

22 I am going to take the folks who signed up  
 23 today but didn't show for this session and add them to  
 24 the back of the stack and I'll call their names one  
 25 time tonight when we get started.

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1 Any further public comments for this  
 2 session? You may add a few comments if you wish, Mr.  
 3 Groh.

4 000140 DONALD GROH: My name is Donald Groh and I  
 5 spoke a little while ago. The three minutes wasn't  
 6 long enough to get across what I would like to say.

7 One of the things is the employment  
 8 situation down in South Dade. A lot of people don't  
 9 have jobs down there. They drive to Broward County  
 10 every day. They drive to Key Largo. They have to  
 11 drive one or two hours to go to work. That's  
 12 ridiculous. We need jobs down here.

13 I was a contractor by trade. After the  
 14 Hurricane we rebuilt dozens of properties. I used to  
 15 have over a dozen workers working for me down here.  
 16 There is no building going on down in South Dade right  
 17 now, not enough to warrant -- to sustain the  
 18 contracting business and revitalizing the Air Force  
 19 base and having an economic engine that's going to  
 20 bring prosperity down to the South Dade people who  
 21 will be able to work and live down in South Dade where  
 22 we enjoy life down here.

23 That's the reason I still live in South  
 24 Dade, because we love it down here, and I don't  
 25 believe that the airport is going to deter from the

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1 quality of life that we now have down in South Dade.  
 2 I believe that we can work together and make this  
 3 airport safe to the environment with the technology  
 4 today and also benefit from the economic point of  
 5 having anyone down here.

6 I just want to say thank you again for  
 7 letting me have a few more minutes for my position.

8 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.

9 I want to thank everyone who came here for  
 10 your comments and for participating in this public  
 11 hearing. Your comments will be extremely helpful to  
 12 the Air Force and other agencies in preparing the  
 13 final SEIS.

14 As we close here, I do want to remind you  
 15 that if you didn't comment or if you decided you have  
 16 more to say, you may write your comments down and  
 17 leave them here with the staff or you can mail them in  
 18 later on. Just make sure they are mailed no later  
 19 than March 7, so they can be addressed in the final  
 20 SEIS.

21 Thank you again for attending this public  
 22 hearing. This hearing is adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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COMMENTS

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF DADE )

I, NIEVES SANCHEZ, Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large, hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbered from 1 to 116, inclusive, are a true and correct transcription of the stenographic notes of the proceedings had and testimony taken in the foregoing case, at the time and place hereinabove set forth.

I further certify that I am not of counsel, I am not related to nor employed by an attorney to this suit, nor interested in the outcome thereof.

The foregoing certification does not apply to any reproduction of this transcript by any means unless under the direct control and/or direction of the certifying shorthand reporter.

Dated at Miami, Dade County, Florida, this 18th day of February 2000.



*Nieves Sanchez*  
NIEVES SANCHEZ, Shorthand Reporter

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BICAYNE BLVD., SUITE 1000  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130  
1001 PINE CREEK ROAD - SUITE 228  
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FORT LAUDERDALE

2251 GRADES ROAD  
SUITE 320A  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
301 CLEMATIS STREET - SUITE 3000  
WEST PALM BEACH

**Transcript of  
Public Hearing**

**February 2, 2000  
7:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.**

**Signature Gardens  
12725 SW 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Kendall, Florida**

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PUBLIC HEARING  
ON  
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT  
DISPOSAL OF PORTIONS OF THE FORMER  
HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

Wednesday, February 2, 2000  
7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.  
Signature Gardens  
12725 S.W. 122nd Avenue  
Miami, Florida

ORIGINAL

Thereupon, the following Public Hearing was held before CHIEF TRIAL JUDGE MICHAEL B. McSHANE.

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(Thereupon, for persons wishing to state their opinions before the commencement of the Public Hearing, the following private sessions were held:)

000141 ANTONIO V. CAULA: I'm Antonio V. Caula and I'm director of the Latin Builders Association and I'm the regional president for Banco Popular, South Florida Region.

I do quite a bit of traveling and find there is a tremendous need for an addition airport. I urge those that have not read the study that was made to read it where it shows that it will improve the quality of life by twenty-eight percent and will not do major harm to the environment. So I'm basically here just to show my support on behalf of that.

Most Metropolitan areas around the U.S. have the advantage of having a second airport and why shouldn't we have one.

000142 MARTHA C. SEOANE: My name is Martha C. Seoane and I'll start out by saying that I'm for the Homestead Airport. I think it's

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a very good project. I think it will enhance the community and create many jobs.

I'm definitely opposed to the Collier-Hoover project because I think that really will not bring any jobs to the community. It's not what this area needs.

I live by the Miami International Airport. I see on a daily basis how congested it is, how overpriced all the fees are in the airport. We definitely need something to relieve the Miami International Airport. I think this is an excellent way to do so.

I wish the president and vice-president would keep their promise as to helping us out with that, to fulfill that project. Basically, that's about it.

000143 CARL GOMEZ: My name is Carl Gomez. The only thing I want to say, the people who want to take the airport away, that money, don't stay in Dade County, they go outside.

So I want the airport because we need a job. We got a lot of people in here without job. And I don't want anybody taking

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the money out of here to another place.

000144 CATHARINA BERNABEI: My name is Catharina Bernabei and I'm a teacher for twenty-five years and I'm against having an airport so close to Everglades National Park. It will be destructive to the habitat and to the animal life there and to the plant life.

I believe having an airport of such a major proportion, which it is going to be a big airport, will encroach on life and will mean in the long run, the end of the park. I believe biologists have said that the birds and other species will be disturbed in the pattern of mating and way of life.

Right to this day, we see Ibis already roaming the streets of Miami due to lack of habitat. And I'm also afraid not only of the noise level, but of pollution coming from the airplanes. Also, more people will begin to live there and development will encroach on the park. It's a real danger.

The Everglades are unique in the world. We need to be conscientious about what we leave behind for generations to come.

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COMMENTS

1 There are more appropriate uses  
2 which would respect our national parks,  
3 especially the Everglades; such as,  
4 recreational facilities, to use the Homestead  
5 Air Force Base as a means for tourism.  
6 Florida thrives on tourism, eco-tourism. And  
7 it should be feasible to find an economic  
8 alternative for the people of Homestead,  
9 living in harmony with our surroundings,  
10 which is the environment.

11 We must protect the Everglades at  
12 all means. As a teacher, I try to instill  
13 awareness in the students of the beauty of  
14 what we have here in Florida. Again, I can't  
15 stress enough how unique it is. It is a  
16 world heritage site.

17 I feel really strongly about this.  
18 If people say the noise level of having a  
19 huge airplane flying over the Everglades  
20 every two seconds means nothing, just imagine  
21 if we were in a bedroom with our boyfriend or  
22 husband and there was an airplane taking off  
23 every two seconds. How would that change our  
24 pattern of life together in a marriage or  
25 whatever?

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1 So the birds and the mammals and the  
2 reptiles have no defense. They cannot speak  
3 for themselves. We are the keepers of the  
4 parks and all the inhabitants of the parks  
5 and we need to speak out for them and to  
6 leave this beautiful land as a heritage for  
7 generations to come.

8 If we are selfish and we just think  
9 about getting richer and have more developers  
10 build homes and an airport and construction  
11 going on, those are riches that are  
12 temporary. And our parks are priceless.  
13 There is no price to place on the Everglades.  
14 Thank-you.

15  
16 000145 LAURA HARDY: My name is Laura Hardy  
17 and I'm here tonight to express my  
18 disappointment in the plan to turn the turn  
19 the land down there into an airport.

20 I'm concerned about all of the  
21 issues of the environment and wildlife, birds  
22 and noise level, especially the planes flying  
23 overhead. And I think the opposing plan is  
24 an excellent plan, it will bring a lot of  
25 jobs and revenue into the area.

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1 I know there are a lot of people  
2 here tonight to show their opinions against  
3 the alternative plan because they see  
4 thirty-eight thousand jobs coming in for the  
5 airport. I think there would be a whole lot  
6 more jobs coming in from what I read from the  
7 proposal of this other group, the  
8 Collier-Hoover group.

9 It seems to me there will be a lot  
10 better usage of the land. They'll make it  
11 into an aquarium and parks and campgrounds,  
12 hotels and things of that nature. And I  
13 would like to see it preserved for my  
14 children and their children. And that's it.

15  
16 000146 JOHN NIEHE: My name is John Niehe  
17 and I'm a concerned citizen. I believe  
18 national parks are created for the  
19 preservation and enjoyment of our natural  
20 surroundings, the plants and animals, and  
21 never to be disturbed.

22 A commercial airport between two  
23 national parks and the Florida Keys Marine  
24 Sanctuary does not seem to make much sense.

25 I believe that a commercial airport will

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1 pollute both air and the water and basically  
2 create a lot of noise pollution.

3 Additionally, an estimated two to  
4 three aircraft accidents a year caused by  
5 collisions with birds concerns me. Turkey  
6 Point Nuclear Power Plant is within six miles  
7 of Homestead Air Force base.

8 As we all know, environmentalists  
9 have pledged they will put this into years of  
10 litigation before an airport could even be  
11 considered. In addition, the jobs at this  
12 airport, if it ever came to be, would not be  
13 for residents of Homestead as they would have  
14 you believe.

15 There are many unemployed air  
16 traffic controllers, flight-line mechanics  
17 and members of the Teamster Union which would  
18 be brought in to truck all of this cargo.

19 An alternative plan, the  
20 Collier-Hoover plan, is both economically and  
21 environmentally friendly and currently has  
22 the support of many of the environmental  
23 groups. This will allow good results and  
24 jobs much faster as needed in the Homestead-  
25 Florida City area.

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1 Both the Collier and Hoover  
 2 organizations have track records which are  
 3 easy to verify. And I believe that this line  
 4 of thinking, the eco-tourism in this  
 5 location, makes a lot of sense, just north of  
 6 the Florida Keys and just south of Miami.  
 7 That's it.

8

9 000147 R. W. HAYES: My name is R. W. Hayes  
 10 and I'm a resident of South Dade County and a  
 11 native Floridan. I was stationed at  
 12 Homestead Air Force Base for a time. I think  
 13 that an airport at this location would be an  
 14 ecological diaster for South Dade County. I  
 15 believe that the history of the base itself  
 16 and the concurrent problems that it  
 17 encountered, some of which are still there,  
 18 pollution, ecological problems, is evidence  
 19 for the future.

20 Between two national parks, as it  
 21 is, the best use of the land would be for a  
 22 public and private park area, private  
 23 enterprise to flourish with recreational  
 24 facilities and water activities and  
 25 activities that are compatible with the

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1 ambiance of the area.

2 I think through that device, many  
 3 jobs can be created of a compatible nature  
 4 than could be for an airport. I also think  
 5 that anyone who lives adjacent to other  
 6 airports in South Florida, such as Tamiami  
 7 Airport and the Miami International Airport  
 8 and the airports that are in Broward county,  
 9 can testify to the problems that occur.

10 I feel that this is our only chance  
 11 to save this part of Florida. And I think we  
 12 have to be forward-thinking for future  
 13 generations as a legacy to them.

14

15 000148 BOBETTE MAUCK: My name is Bobette  
 16 Mauck and I'm going against having an  
 17 airport. I think it should be left as the  
 18 Air Reserve Base.

19 I'm against the additional air  
 20 traffic between the two national parks. It  
 21 would be detrimental to the environment.  
 22 Having the airport, when you add the air  
 23 traffic, they are going to want to kill the  
 24 birds because they say the birds will get in  
 25 the way of planes and cause a hazard. And we

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1 need to leave open spaces for the birds'  
 2 habitat, because if we keep concreting over  
 3 everything, there's not going to be anything  
 4 left for the animals.

5

6 000149 ADRIENE HOHENBERG: My name is  
 7 Adriene Hohenberg and I'm a resident of  
 8 Miami-Dade County, but more than anything,  
 9 I'm a resident of the world. And as such,  
 10 I'm very concerned about the future for all  
 11 generations.

12 The proposed airport in the  
 13 Everglades poses many problems for the future  
 14 of the Everglades as well as our planet. The  
 15 major problem will be borne by Florida,  
 16 specifically South Florida, in that South  
 17 Florida gets its fresh water supply from the  
 18 viability of the Everglades.

19 An airport in the Sverglades is not  
 20 only contraindicated to the Everglades  
 21 Restoration plan, but it will impede the  
 22 hydrologic cycle and cause irreparable harm  
 23 to the fresh water for South Florida.

24 Additionally, we are a World  
 25 Heritage site and the Wetlands have been

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1 given international importance under the RAMS  
 2 international agreement, which should  
 3 indicate and does indicate how critically  
 4 important the Everglades are.

5 If you damage this fragile  
 6 ecosystem, you will lose wading birds, whose  
 7 populations are already seriously diminished,  
 8 as well as migrating birds and other birds  
 9 and amphibians, reptiles and mammals that are  
 10 all crucial to the health and well-being of  
 11 this ecosystem.

12 The Everglades is unique. There is  
 13 nowhere else in the world like it. Please,  
 14 if you value the future for all of us, your  
 15 children and your grandchildren, do not allow  
 16 this airport to be built in our precious  
 17 land.

18

19 000150 IRENE MURRAY: My name is Irene  
 20 Murray. I would like to be on the record  
 21 that having five generations of military, I  
 22 feel strongly about the military and do not  
 23 like the idea of a reliever airport.

24 I lived in Coral Gables under the  
 25 path of MIA for over a year. We moved

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# COMMENTS

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1 because of the dirt and the noise. We moved  
2 to Homestead because it was quiet. We have a  
3 boat on the bay at one of the yacht clubs.

4 I'm a realtor broker and I have my  
5 own company, but an airport is going to be a  
6 second MIA in the south and I'm not sure  
7 that's what we need. I would like to see  
8 some other alternatives.

9 I like the idea of the aquarium and  
10 research park. And I would like to keep  
11 Biscayne Bay from degrading any further. I  
12 wish I could tell you something more  
13 scientifically, but I'm not a scientist.

14  
15 000151 THERESA BRIDGES: My name is Theresa  
16 Bridges. I would like to speak on behalf of  
17 the Mixed Use Alternative for the former  
18 Homestead Air Force Base. I believe the  
19 property can economically benefit South  
20 Florida through the mixture and not damage  
21 the environmentally-sensitive parks that are  
22 nearby.

23 I have a lot of experience in  
24 accounting and planning and I do not believe  
25 that the projections upon which the

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1 commerical airport proposal is based, are  
2 sound assumptions. I firmly believe that the  
3 commerical airport would not be successful  
4 economically and become an albatross and will  
5 not only damage the environment, but will not  
6 be financially beneficial to the community.

7  
8 000152 ROSA QUINTANA: (Through Juan E.  
9 Gandara, Sr. professional interpreter)

10 My name is Rosa Quintana. I'm in agreement  
11 for the airport project in Homestead. There  
12 is a definite need in order to obtain jobs.

13 My son is looking for employment.  
14 He works in Fort Lauderdale and I wish he  
15 could be closer. There is a need,  
16 definitely.

17  
18 000153 DARCIE QUINTANA: My name is Darcie  
19 Quintana and I'm for the Homestead Airport.

20 I feel that we do need more jobs and  
21 especially at a closer airport. I feel that  
22 it won't harm the environment or do anything  
23 to it. It won't have any effect on it. And  
24 once again, I'm for the Homestead Airport.

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1 000154 SALLY SEETOO: My name is Sally  
2 Seetoo. I'm not in favor of another airport  
3 in the area. I feel that it will add jobs to  
4 the economy, however, we do not want more  
5 people in Florida. It's already too crowded.  
6 There is no open space left. It's the most  
7 crowded city I have ever seen in my entire  
8 life.

9 I think that we need the open space  
10 and we need the few wild animals that may  
11 exist. And we need cleaner air than we have  
12 now. To add to air pollution would be  
13 serious because it's already bad in Miami.  
14 We just need to start somewhere to save  
15 whatever space is left. That's all I have to  
16 say.

17  
18 000155 SAMUEL ORTEGA: (Through Juan E.  
19 Gandara, Sr., professional interpreter)

20 My name is Samuel Ortega. I'm in  
21 agreement for the construction of the base  
22 because there is an opportunity for many jobs  
23 to be obtained and it helps towards the  
24 development of Miami and is a source of  
25 revenue for the city. It helps also with the

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1 trade towards Latin America. That's all.

2  
3 000156 LONDON SPENCER: My name is London  
4 Spencer and I'm an environmentalist. I have  
5 deep concerns for the two national parks. I  
6 just had a fresh reminder of what can happen  
7 to the ecosystem with the crash in  
8 California. I would have deep concern that  
9 if we have an environmental disaster like  
10 that in either one of the national parks,  
11 that damage could be done.

12 I do work with hazardous material,  
13 I'm a specialist, and I just want to voice my  
14 concerns and reject this application for the  
15 use of a commerical airport at Homestead Air  
16 Force Base. I'm also worried about the sound  
17 pollution, the light pollution and how this  
18 will have an effect on the area.

19 I'm also very concerned about the  
20 traffic that will be added to Krome Avenue,  
21 which is the trucking route from that  
22 facility. I have concerns about the  
23 increased traffic. They want to have four  
24 lanes on Krome Avenue, opening up Krome and  
25 the Redlands to more development, endangering

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1 the agricultural area.  
 2 (Thereupon, the private session was concluded.)  
 3 PUBLIC HEARING  
 4 7:00 p.m.  
 5  
 6 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Before we  
 7 get started, I have a couple of  
 8 announcements. Please do not display any  
 9 signs or banners from your seats, as you will  
 10 be blocking someone else's view.  
 11 Also, if you have cell phones, I  
 12 learned last night that just about everybody  
 13 in the room seemed to have a cell phone and  
 14 they all went off at least once during the  
 15 night. If you have a cell phone, please turn  
 16 off the ringer. You can have them vibrate or  
 17 you can just turn them off and get your  
 18 messages later. Don't interrupt the  
 19 proceedings by having your phone ring.  
 20 I anticipate that we are going to  
 21 end this evening at 11:00 o'clock, whether we  
 22 are done with all of the speakers or not. I  
 23 think that is late enough. We will try to  
 24 keep moving along and hopefully everyone who  
 25 signed up to speak, will get to speak before

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1 11:00.  
 2 Speaking of that, if you signed up  
 3 last night or this afternoon but did not get  
 4 to speak and you want to speak tonight, you  
 5 should tell the lady in the purple dress, who  
 6 is sitting by the entrance doors at the rear  
 7 right outside of the lobby and she will pull  
 8 your card and you will be in the first group  
 9 of people that are called on tonight.  
 10 I will make that announcement later  
 11 on for other folks that wander in and didn't  
 12 hear it now. We want to get those folks that  
 13 stayed late last night to have the first  
 14 opportunity to speak tonight.  
 15 Okay. That's all the announcements.  
 16 We will move into the formal part of the  
 17 program.  
 18 Welcome to this Public Hearing on  
 19 the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact  
 20 Statement on the disposal of portions of the  
 21 former Homestead Air Force Base.  
 22 I'm Colonel Mike McShane and I'm the  
 23 Chief Trial Judge of the Air Force, stationed  
 24 at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, DC.  
 25

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1 My normal duties include presiding  
 2 over Air Force court-martials, but this week,  
 3 I've been made available to preside over this  
 4 series of five hearings which are being held  
 5 in this area concerning the disposal and  
 6 subsequent reuse of former Homestead Air  
 7 Force Base property.  
 8 Just so you know, I have not been  
 9 involved in the development of any of these  
 10 proposals that are being considered, and my  
 11 job is just to make sure that we have a fair  
 12 and orderly hearing here tonight.  
 13 I want to thank you for taking time  
 14 from your busy schedules to come here tonight  
 15 for this public hearing. If you're  
 16 interested in further information about the  
 17 proposals, I hope you took time to visit with  
 18 the technical staff prior to this portion of  
 19 the hearing.  
 20 In preparing this Draft Supplemental  
 21 Environmental Impact Statement, or Draft  
 22 SEIS, which you will hear us refer to it as,  
 23 it was the Air Force's goal to understand the  
 24 environmental implications of deciding for  
 25 what purpose and to whom to convey surplus

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1 property at former Homestead Air Force Base.  
 2 The Draft SEIS examines reasonable  
 3 ways in which the property might be  
 4 developed, used, and the reasonably  
 5 foreseeable environmental consequences of the  
 6 alternatives.  
 7 At this time, I would like to  
 8 introduce Major Mike Chipley of the Air Force  
 9 Executive Issues Team. He is an engineer  
 10 with a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the  
 11 University of California.  
 12 Major Chipley will discuss the  
 13 proposed action and alternatives and provide  
 14 a short synopsis of the reuse issues. Since  
 15 the overall purpose of these hearings is to  
 16 obtain input from you on the contents of the  
 17 Draft SEIS, the presentation will be short.  
 18  
 19 MAJOR CHIPLEY: Thank-you, Colonel  
 20 McShane. I, too, would like to extend my  
 21 thanks to all of you for taking time to  
 22 provide your comments on the Draft SEIS.  
 23 For the past several years, we have  
 24 been engaged in the process of completing the  
 25 realignment and reuse of the former Homestead

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# COMMENTS

1 Air Force Base as required by the Defense  
2 Base Closure and Realignment Act.

3 The Air Force's primary goal in this  
4 process is to transfer the properties in a  
5 manner that supports local plans for economic  
6 revitalization of South Florida and protects  
7 Biscayne Bay and the nearby national parks.  
8 A disposal must also be compatible with  
9 continuing the existing military and law  
10 enforcement missions. The Air Force and  
11 Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, are  
12 the designated lead agencies for the Draft  
13 SEIS.

14 The Air Force has decision-making  
15 responsibilities for the transfer of the  
16 property. The FAA has decision-making  
17 responsibilities for airport facilities.

18 There are three cooperating  
19 agencies. One cooperating agency is the  
20 National Park Service because it manages  
21 Biscayne National Park and Everglades  
22 National Park.

23 Another cooperating agency is the  
24 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because of its  
25 responsibilities to ensure threatened and

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1 endangered species are adequately considered  
2 and because of the proximity of Crocodile  
3 Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

4 And the third cooperating agency is  
5 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
6 because of its regulatory responsibilities.

7 The contractor hired by the Air  
8 Force to actually conduct the analysis is  
9 Science Applications International  
10 Corporation, or SAIC for short. They have  
11 been supported by another contractor, Landrum  
12 and Brown, which performed the airport  
13 planning and noise analyses.

14 I would like to take a couple of  
15 minutes to update you on the SEIS process and  
16 what has occurred since the scoping period  
17 ended in July of 1998. More than 440  
18 individuals, organizations and agencies  
19 provided written input during our 132 day  
20 scoping period. And 195 people spoke at our  
21 public scoping meetings.

22 The size and complexity of the Draft  
23 SEIS has grown substantially because of the  
24 number and diverse nature of issues and  
25 because of the many federal agencies, state

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1 and local governments, private organizations  
2 and concerned citizens involved.

3 Midway through the analysis, two  
4 mixed-use proposals were received which were  
5 incorporated into the analysis. We recognize  
6 that this has been a long process for  
7 everyone. We want you to know many other  
8 communities have also struggled through the  
9 base closure process.

10 Some former bases have been  
11 developed for aviation uses, others for  
12 non-aviation uses. The success of  
13 redevelopment depends upon the local  
14 community involvement and support.

15 The Draft SEIS examines a number of  
16 reuse alternatives for remaining surplus  
17 property at the former base. Ongoing reuse  
18 involving property that has already been  
19 transferred, like the Job Corps Center, the  
20 Dade County Homeless Trust, the regional park  
21 and other needed properties, would continue  
22 under any of the alternatives.

23 The alternatives underwent thorough  
24 and complex analyses of the environmental and  
25 economic impact that could potentially occur

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1 as a result of redevelopment. Fourteen  
2 topics were used as the basis for the  
3 analysis.

4 Public and agency concerns that were  
5 expressed at our scoping meetings identified  
6 important issues and helped focus our  
7 analysis. Those concerns have been  
8 incorporated throughout the Draft SEIS.

9 When the reuse planning process was  
10 initiated for Homestead Air Force, Miami-Dade  
11 County was designated as the local reuse  
12 authority to develop a reuse plan for the  
13 former base.

14 The county has proposed that the  
15 1,632 acres of remaining surplus property at  
16 former Homestead Base be transferred to  
17 Miami-Dade County Aviation Department for  
18 development of a commercial airport.

19 This is the proposed action  
20 addressed in the Draft SEIS. The analysis of  
21 the proposed action included identifying and  
22 assessing new flight tracks that would be  
23 used at the commercial airport.

24 Airport operations, in general, are  
25 characteristically different than commercial

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1 or residential land uses in the types of  
 2 numbers of vehicles, equipment and people,  
 3 and the resulting impact to the environment.  
 4 The main issues of the proposed  
 5 action involve air pollution, storm water  
 6 run-off and noise levels. Another alternative  
 7 examined in the Draft SEIS is a commercial  
 8 spaceport. The main issues with the  
 9 commercial spaceport alternative involve the  
 10 uncertainties related to the licensing  
 11 process, safety and potential increase in  
 12 noise.  
 13 Three approaches were examined for  
 14 non-aviation uses, presented as the Mixed-Use  
 15 Alternative, Market-driven development, The  
 16 Collier Resources Company proposal, and the  
 17 Hoover Environment Group plan.  
 18 The Mixed-Use alternatives could  
 19 create higher intensity of use in a shorter  
 20 period of time, but may have less  
 21 environmental effects on the national parks.  
 22 The Draft SEIS also includes the No  
 23 Action alternative, which means the property  
 24 continues to belong to the government and  
 25 reverts to caretaker status.

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1 Under each alternative, the Air  
 2 Force, Florida Air National Guard, and  
 3 Customs Service continue to use the runway  
 4 for their current military missions.  
 5 The Draft SEIS addresses each  
 6 alternative in the context of future growth  
 7 in South Florida and also takes into account  
 8 potential cumulative impacts of other  
 9 projects. It also includes some historical  
 10 information where available.  
 11 Your views and comments on the Draft  
 12 SEIS will be important as we work toward  
 13 completing the Final SEIS. We are now about  
 14 half-way through the 60-day public comment  
 15 period.  
 16 We scheduled these hearings to  
 17 provide you an opportunity to review the  
 18 Draft SEIS and formulate comments you can  
 19 give here today, and also to provide some  
 20 time after these hearings so you can  
 21 incorporate things you might learn here  
 22 tonight, into written comments.  
 23 Whether you choose to comment today  
 24 or to provide your comments in writing  
 25 between now and March 7th, we look forward to

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1 receiving your inputs and assisting us in  
 2 completing the Final SEIS.  
 3 The Final SEIS, scheduled for  
 4 completion in July, 2000, will include  
 5 comments made at the public hearings or  
 6 submitted in writing during the public  
 7 comment period for the Draft SEIS, along with  
 8 Air Force and FAA responses to your comments.  
 9 A decision on what action will be  
 10 taken concerning the transfer of the disposal  
 11 property will be made no earlier than thirty  
 12 days after publication of the Final SEIS.  
 13 We will continue to distribute news  
 14 releases and send newsletters to those on our  
 15 mailing list throughout the final course of  
 16 the SEIS process.  
 17 Anyone wishing to be added to the  
 18 mailing list should complete an attendance  
 19 card located at the registration table in the  
 20 foyer and check the appropriate box on the  
 21 card.  
 22 In summary, I would like to say that  
 23 we do understand this is a complicated and  
 24 often frustrating process. Let me reiterate  
 25 that neither the Air Force nor FAA proposes

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1 to directly develop the surplus property.  
 2 The Air Force's goal is to transfer  
 3 the property in a manner that supports local  
 4 plans for economic revitalization and  
 5 protects Biscayne Bay and the nearby national  
 6 parks. A disposal must also be compatible  
 7 with continuing the existing military and law  
 8 enforcement missions.  
 9  
 10 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Thank-you,  
 11 Major Chipley. Each of the proponents of the  
 12 alternatives shall have the opportunity to  
 13 describe their proposal and speak about it.  
 14 Miami-Dade County representatives of  
 15 been given ten minutes to speak about their  
 16 proposals. You may also have noticed that  
 17 some of the other proponents, although they  
 18 elected not to give a presentation, have  
 19 materials available at the tables in the back  
 20 of the room.  
 21 At this time, I would call on the  
 22 representatives from Miami-Dade County to  
 23 discuss their proposal.  
 24  
 25

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COMMENTS

1 GARY DALLAPA: Thank-you. Good  
2 evening. My name is Gary Dallapa and I'm the  
3 Aviation Director for Miami-Dade County. We  
4 operate Miami International Airport and five  
5 general airports here in Miami-Dade County.

6 I have a little over thirty years of  
7 service with the community and with  
8 Metro-Dade government. I would like to  
9 thank-you again for giving us the opportunity  
10 to present our recommendations for  
11 redevelopment of the former Air Force Base.

12 It's important for the panel to bear  
13 in mind that the aeronautic issues I'm  
14 addressing tonight are not just South Dade  
15 issues, not just Miami-Dade issues, but are  
16 for all of South Florida.

17 In previous testimony, you have  
18 heard from other elected officials on what  
19 the decision on reuse means to the continued  
20 prosperity of this county. History is on the  
21 side of aviation.

22 The South Florida community has a  
23 long-standing prominent position in aviation  
24 dating back to the first airline terminal in  
25 the United States. Continuing through foreign

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1 trade. This community has come to rely on  
2 aviation as the underpinning of our local  
3 economy and the chief provider of jobs.

4 All is not well however. The  
5 current system of airports is taxed to the  
6 extremes of its limits and will prove unable  
7 to meet future market demands unless  
8 augmented by new aviation.

9 In support of this understanding,  
10 the airport has a display with documents and  
11 graphics on future aviation demand and our  
12 capacity to meet that demand. It's  
13 imperative that you understand that the  
14 inability to meet market demand, means loss  
15 of economic growth and seriously impacts our  
16 employment base and business community.

17 You may be aware of our efforts to  
18 accelerate the construction of a fourth  
19 runway at Miami International Airport. That  
20 is the single most important element of the  
21 department's long-range development plan.  
22 However, this final plan to meet our capacity  
23 at Miami International will not be able to  
24 meet the air traffic forecast for beyond the  
25 year, 2015.

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1 Our primary development strategy is  
2 to provide the facilities now as well as  
3 long-term demand. The critical element of  
4 this strategy is the flexibility to be able  
5 to react to future aviation growth that may  
6 be unforeseen today in stimulating foreign  
7 commerce growth.

8 Miami-Dade's most limiting capacity  
9 constraint today is the number of full  
10 service commercial runways available in our  
11 airport system to safely manage aircraft.  
12 MIA is currently at a point where no  
13 additional runway can be provided.

14 Numerous efforts in the last three  
15 decades to identify new sites in South  
16 Florida for a commercial aviation facility  
17 have proven fruitless. There are no other  
18 sites. Consequently, the most crucial issue  
19 confronting us today is a decision on the  
20 ultimate reuse plan for Homestead Air Force  
21 Base.

22 That decision will effect whether or  
23 not this community will be able to accommodate  
24 the tremendous world-wide growth in aviation  
25 that is forecast, a growth that we will be

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1 unable to meet with MIA and our other  
2 airports alone.

3 For example, as we reported in the  
4 SEIS, Opa-locka has air space and  
5 environmental issues. From an aviation point  
6 of view, the conclusion is inescapable, we  
7 need Homestead. The need for a long-term  
8 capacity demand will not come at the expense  
9 of environmental incompatibility.

10 One of the Aviation Department's  
11 objectives is to provide aviation to meet  
12 demands while ensuring a balance between  
13 environmental issues, quality of life and  
14 economic issues for Florida residents.

15 The SEIS shows there are no  
16 environmental impacts associated with the  
17 airport alternative. Commercial aircraft is  
18 found to be less intrusive on the Everglades  
19 than those resulting from the military  
20 presence.

21 Miami-Dade County is committed to  
22 ensuring that the plan and development of the  
23 commercial airport in done in an  
24 environmental manner. This is not just  
25 words. Miami-Dade Aviation has a track

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1 record of environmental responsibility.  
 2 We've spent over one hundred and seventy  
 3 million dollars since 1994 to address  
 4 environmental issues. One of the main  
 5 objectives of our current program is  
 6 maintaining the environment not only of the  
 7 air, but of the soil as well.

8 These are very real, very tangible  
 9 statements to hear. The meaning is clear,  
 10 that under the leadership of the County  
 11 Commission and our County Manager, no one  
 12 should fear the airport alternative.  
 13 Miami-Dade Aviation is in full agreement with  
 14 the activity proposed in the SEIS. The  
 15 projected operations provide for future  
 16 demands.

17 We believe that the airport is most  
 18 compatible with the land use. Furthermore,  
 19 advances in airplane and engine technology  
 20 should be under consideration. We have  
 21 commercial flight activity. This is evident  
 22 in the mandatory conversion statement. This  
 23 change was effective January 1, 2000.  
 24 Another example of this type of technology  
 25 change is increase in the use of flights of

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1 the major air carriers.  
 2 In conclusion, we are at the  
 3 crossroads as to the future of aviation in  
 4 South Florida. This is our only opportunity  
 5 to preserve a valuable airport, regional  
 6 aviation, and allow this county to grow and  
 7 prosper. Thank-you.

8  
 9 RAMON RASCO: Good evening members  
 10 of the panel, my name is Ramon Rasco. I  
 11 represent the developer selected by the  
 12 county to build an airport at the former  
 13 Homestead Air Force Base.

14 We've been working with the  
 15 developer six years now. I'm here to confirm  
 16 that the developer is committed to building a  
 17 clean and environmentally-safe airport.

18 This commitment was spelled out in  
 19 the Chapter 288 process that was started here  
 20 in Miami-Dade County that was reviewed by all  
 21 of the county's permitting and environmental  
 22 regulatory agencies and was approved by the  
 23 County Commission and went to the South  
 24 Florida Water Management in West Palm Beach  
 25 and was approved there. It went from there

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1 to the Department of Community Affairs in  
 2 Tallahassee and was approved there and then  
 3 received unanimous approval by Governor  
 4 Lawton Chiles and his cabinet.

5 This process resulted in tremendous  
 6 environmental improvements for the base area  
 7 business and its surroundings, including  
 8 Biscayne Bay.

9 The same, however, cannot be said  
 10 for the Collier proposal. They have not been  
 11 before a single one of these bodies or  
 12 agencies and their plan has not been reviewed  
 13 by anyone of them.

14 All of the environmental safeguards  
 15 that have been bought into the project by the  
 16 Chapter 288 process have been agreed to by  
 17 the developer and the developer hereby  
 18 reaffirms its commitment to its safeguards  
 19 and to building an airport that will be  
 20 compatible with our environment and community  
 21 and national parks.

22 This project is an economic  
 23 development opportunity for Dade County and  
 24 particularly to the South Dade area where  
 25 jobs are so badly needed and it will provide

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1 the necessary airport capacity for our  
 2 community to remain at the forefront of  
 3 international trade and commerce well into  
 4 the 21st Century.

5 The lease that was granted, my  
 6 client, after intensive scrutiny and public  
 7 hearings, feels is a very fair lease and  
 8 inclusive lease that provides equity  
 9 contracting and work opportunities for all  
 10 segments of our community.

11 It is a lease that will bring  
 12 millions of dollars of revenues to Dade  
 13 County, that will provide for billions of  
 14 dollars of facilities to be built at the  
 15 airport which will then revert to Dade County  
 16 at the end of the lease and which will  
 17 provide for state of the art facilities for  
 18 E-commerce, aircraft maintenance and repairs  
 19 and many opportunities that will provide good  
 20 high-paying jobs for our community and for  
 21 our children and grandchildren.

22 The developer is committed to making  
 23 this project a win-win situation for this  
 24 community with a clean high-tech  
 25 environmentally safe airport that will be

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# COMMENTS

1 developed with all of the appropriate  
2 mitigation measures implemented as the  
3 project is built out in order to prevent  
4 damage to our national parks and to our  
5 environment.

6 In closing, I will say that the  
7 project presents opportunity and  
8 responsibility and is a tremendous  
9 opportunity for good jobs, for economic  
10 development and air transportation and it's  
11 balanced with responsibility toward our parks  
12 and our environment.

13 For these reasons, we urge the Air  
14 Force to dispose of this surplus property  
15 pursuant to the proposed action as spelled  
16 out in the Draft SEIS. Thank-you, very much.

18 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: This  
19 concludes a presentation of information about  
20 the proposals. In a few minutes, we will  
21 begin the public comment portion of the  
22 hearing.

23 You will have several ways to  
24 provide your comments. If you brought  
25 written comments, please place them in the

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1 box on the comment table out in the lobby.  
2 Written comments do carry the same weight as  
3 oral comments, which are presented here at  
4 the hearing.

5 If you want to write down your  
6 comments while you're here, there are forms  
7 on the comment table to do that. You can  
8 take a form home to complete and mail it back  
9 to the address which is provided on the  
10 comment form.

11 You can also write your comments in  
12 your own format and mail them in. You do not  
13 need to use the comment forms; they are only  
14 provided for your convenience.

15 You will have the opportunity to  
16 provide oral comments when I begin the public  
17 comment portion of the hearing in just a  
18 couple of minutes.

19 Let me tell you a few things about  
20 the public comment period. I will say again,  
21 I said when we started, if you signed up last  
22 night or this afternoon, but did not get to  
23 speak and you want to speak tonight, you need  
24 to tell the lady in the purple dress outside  
25 by the back entrance doors there and she will

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1 pull your cards and you will be the first  
2 group of people that will speak tonight

3 After those folks have spoken, we  
4 will hear from elected officials next and  
5 then we will hear from those of you who have  
6 submitted cards indicating that you wish to  
7 speak tonight. I will call on you in the  
8 order that the cards were submitted.

9 Anyone who has not yet filled out a  
10 card and wants to speak, will be given an  
11 opportunity to do that after the registered  
12 speakers have made their comments.

13 Each individual or organization will  
14 have three minutes to provide comments. You  
15 may finish your sentence when your time is  
16 up, but please don't take anymore time than  
17 that. Please stop promptly so we can hear  
18 from the maximum number of people.

19 Please refrain from applause or  
20 clapping, as that takes time away from the  
21 speakers. Please respect other peoples'  
22 viewpoints and let them make their comments  
23 without interruption.

24 Please clearly state your name and  
25 the name of your organization, if any, that

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1 you're representing before you begin your  
2 comments so that our court reporter can get  
3 that down. The transcript that she prepares  
4 will be the permanent record of this hearing  
5 and will be published in the Final SEIS.

6 Please do not provide any personal  
7 information in your comments if you do not  
8 want to see it published in the Final SEIS.  
9 It's very important that you use the  
10 microphones there in the aisles so that the  
11 reporter can hear you and get down your  
12 comments.

13 The focus now is to listen to your  
14 comments concerning the content of the Draft  
15 SEIS. Preceding this presentation, you had  
16 an opportunity to ask questions, one-on-one,  
17 with the technical staff at the exhibits  
18 there at the back of room and hopefully they  
19 answered all your questions.

20 Any further questions that are asked  
21 in the course of making your statements, will  
22 be addressed in the Final SEIS rather than  
23 answered tonight. So again, please focus  
24 your comments on the Draft SEIS and the  
25 analysis of the reuse options.

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1 If you need to have your comments  
 2 translated into English and did not indicate  
 3 when you signed in, please let us know. If  
 4 you make comments tonight and later decide  
 5 that you have additional comments or know  
 6 someone who is interested in the comment  
 7 process but could not attend any of the  
 8 meetings, written comments can be submitted  
 9 until March 7, 2000. The mailing address can  
 10 be found in all all of the available  
 11 hand-outs.

12 At this point, I'm going to start  
 13 with the individuals who signed up last night  
 14 but we didn't get to them and who have  
 15 indicated that they are here tonight.

16 Let me start with Hector Varela.

17

18 000157 HECTOR VARELA: Colonel McShane and  
 19 distinguished members, my name is Hector  
 20 Varela. I'm an elected member of West  
 21 Kendall Community Council. I thank you very  
 22 much for giving us an opportunity to appear  
 23 before you. I join the commentary from last  
 24 night of Mayor Wallace and especially of  
 25 Mayor Steve Shiver, elected officials, who

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1 know the Homestead area best and who are  
 2 cognizant of the need for jobs in South  
 3 Miami-Dade County, which in the last Labor  
 4 Department statistics was ranked dead last in  
 5 employment.

6 We remain approximately 33 percent  
 7 above the U.S. rate of 4.1 unemployment.  
 8 There are deep pockets of property in  
 9 Miami-Dade County. The commercial airport  
 10 solution is the most viable and produces the  
 11 best paying jobs. It keeps Miami-Dade County  
 12 as a prominent site for commercial aviation,  
 13 which we are constantly being assailed by  
 14 other cities and counties in the United  
 15 States.

16 I would join Director Dellapa in his  
 17 concern that we're going to be marketed right  
 18 out of this market. This is not going to be  
 19 a catch-as-catch-can type of development.

20 I sit on the appeals board and it's  
 21 pretty tough to develop anything. We will  
 22 get tougher and tougher. This is not going  
 23 to ruin the environment. And by golly, we  
 24 really do need the jobs. I hope that I  
 25 didn't go over my time. Thank-you, Colonel

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1 and distinguished panel.

2

3 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: I understand  
 4 that a large number of folks are standing  
 5 there in the back. There's a lot of chatter  
 6 going on and it's distracting. Some of the  
 7 folks in the back rows are unable to hear  
 8 because you're talking like that. So please  
 9 come in and sit down and listen to the  
 10 speakers so that everybody has an opportunity  
 11 to hear what is going on. Please don't be  
 12 rude and distract other folks from hearing  
 13 what is going on.

14 Next to speak will be Alan Farago.

15

16 000158 ALAN FARAGO: Thanks. Usually I  
 17 don't need a mike to do this, but that's all  
 18 right. First of all, my name is Alan Farago  
 19 and I'm Conservation Chair for the Miami  
 20 Sierra group.

21 I want to start by expressing our  
 22 dismay at the conduct of the hearing last  
 23 night with respect to the registration. We  
 24 had a significant number of people who were  
 25 unable to speak last night in opposition to

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1 the commercial airport.

2 Just a couple of issues. First of  
 3 all, thirty years ago, there was a proposal  
 4 for a jet port in the Everglades. Miami-Dade  
 5 County Aviation at the time said that the  
 6 capacity of the Miami International was going  
 7 to be exceeded and we needed the jet port in  
 8 the Everglades then. That was thirty years  
 9 ago.

10 We simply don't trust the officials  
 11 that say with the additional fourth runway of  
 12 Miami International, with changes in cargo  
 13 and passenger freight loads, that a relief  
 14 airport is needed at the present time.

15 With respect to the SEIS and the  
 16 question of jobs, because jobs seem to be on  
 17 everyone's mind here, 4.12 of the SEIS talks  
 18 about jobs in the year 2005. Mixed-Use  
 19 alternative will give approximately  
 20 fifty-five hundred jobs as opposed to  
 21 thirty-seven hundred jobs for the airport. I  
 22 think people need to look at the SEIS a  
 23 little more closer.

24 The earnings, in 2005, the SEIS  
 25 under the Mixed-Use alternative, a hundred

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1 and sixty million in earnings, as opposed to  
2 a hundred and five million for the airport.  
3 So we encourage you, please, to look at the  
4 SEIS closely. If it was only about jobs and  
5 if people wanted jobs now, you would consider  
6 the Mixed-Use alternative.

7 There is also the issue about the  
8 cost of the SEIS, how excessive it has been.  
9 In 1996, the City of Seattle wasted six  
10 million dollars on an SEIS prepared by the  
11 same consulting group that prepared the  
12 technical aviation part of this SEIS. Numbers  
13 come and go.

14 There are some very complicated  
15 issues with respect to the SEIS. The issue  
16 of airports and compatibility with our  
17 national parks, some of them have to do with  
18 things like noise.

19 The FAA and the Department of  
20 Interior have been at war over noise  
21 measurements for decades. And we propose and  
22 we suggest to people who are really concerned  
23 about jobs, if you think that this Homestead  
24 commercial airport is going to resolve the  
25 question of jobs created in Homestead, we

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1 disagree strongly because we're talking about  
2 problems that have taken a long time to  
3 create and I honestly don't believe they're  
4 going to be resolved anytime soon.

5 So again, if you're interested in  
6 jobs, consider the Mixed-Use alternative.

7 A final point, we don't just  
8 represent Miami-Dade County county Airports  
9 are not compatible with national parks. Thank  
10 you very much

11  
12 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker  
13 will be Benoit Jonckheeve.

14  
15 000159 BENOIT JONCKHEEVE: Thank-you. My  
16 name is Benoit Jonckheeve and I moved to  
17 Homestead in 1993. I was very surprised to  
18 see that you were very naive to believe  
19 information given to you about the plan of  
20 the airport, the belief that noise and  
21 pollution can be restrained and can be  
22 managed and it will be safe with so many  
23 airplanes flying near Turkey Point.

24 If some people thought about  
25 increasing jobs, increasing income for the

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1 community or the future, I would like you to  
2 open your eyes to the future. What will be  
3 the future for the next generation if you  
4 accept the construction of an airport and  
5 In twenty-five, thirty years, the noise, the  
6 traffic, the pollution, the construction, the  
7 factories and warehouses it will be creating  
8 in South Florida, in Homestead between  
9 Biscayne and the Everglades National Park.

10 They propose to expand the airport  
11 to two, three or four runways. We have to be  
12 against the project, to preserve the parks,  
13 to preserve the quality of life left.

14 Honestly, with all of the studies and  
15 proposals that you have, you make a decision  
16 to expand a big airport to a bigger airport.

17 You'll let the next generation,  
18 repair and find solutions of mistakes you  
19 will make today by accepting the construction  
20 of an airport. And finally, I'm against it  
21 because it's already off limits.

22 Please, do not be a hypocrite, go  
23 and think further about the future. Please,  
24 there are other economical and safe  
25 projections for the base and for our

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1 community to be considered and to choose  
2 from. Renounce it before it's too late.

3 Ladies and gentlemen, be active.  
4 It's your voice against their noise.  
5 Thank-you.

6  
7 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker  
8 is Barry Patterson.

9  
10 000160 BARRY PATTERSON: Good evening I'm  
11 Barry Patterson. I live in Key Largo in  
12 Monroe County. I'm a part of the audience  
13 that waited six hours last night to speak. A  
14 public meeting should have been held in the  
15 proposed impact area of the Upper Keys.

16 I'm representing the South Florida  
17 Chapter of the Earth Liberation Foundation.  
18 The conversion of the surplus of Homestead  
19 Air Force Base property to a commercial  
20 airport that abuts the Upper keys and that  
21 the proposed airport area is over a Florida  
22 designated area is of critical concern to us.  
23 We want to protect the Keys and not have the  
24 onslaught of commercial jet traffic.

25 The Florida Keys and South Florida is

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1 a unique region with many endangered species.  
 2 The Draft does not cover the question of  
 3 living organisms, including humans. Will  
 4 they survive in an unhealthy state with  
 5 twenty-four hours a day of jet fuel droplets  
 6 falling down from the clear South Florida  
 7 skys?  
 8 The negative impact of a commercial  
 9 airport between Biscayne and Everglades  
 10 National Park and the Florida Keys National  
 11 Marine Sanctuary and the Key Largo National  
 12 Wild Life Preserve will be a disgrace to  
 13 American residents and in direct conflict  
 14 with the purposes of establishing these  
 15 priceless national parks.  
 16 We strongly disagree with the Draft  
 17 SEIS that a commercial airport is needed as  
 18 an incentive to boost local economy and  
 19 provide jobs. In fact, Homestead had a  
 20 prosperous economy before Hurricane Andrew.  
 21 As we can see, Homestead is  
 22 experiencing a boom in residential homes,  
 23 construction and growth of business and of  
 24 tourism. What I'm saying to you, folks, I'm  
 25 saying people that want to work, are working.

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1 With the local Homestead economy in  
 2 good health, it's become obvious that an  
 3 airport development is pushed by a few people  
 4 and politicians addicted to greed at the  
 5 expense of the environment and Homestead's  
 6 quality of life.  
 7 Therefore, we support the non-action  
 8 alternative in the Draft SEIS which states  
 9 the Federal Government retain ownership of  
 10 the remaining acreage at the former Homestead  
 11 Air Force Base and do nothing with this  
 12 environmentally-sensitive land. Thank-you.  
 13  
 14 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker  
 15 will be John Fortuin. Followed by Debra  
 16 Flynn.  
 17  
 18 000161 JOHN FORTUIN: Hello, my name is  
 19 John Fortuin. I'm a resident of North Miami.  
 20 I came here today to speak out in opposition  
 21 to the conclusion written up in the  
 22 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
 23 that an airport is needed in South Dade and  
 24 is compatible with our plants and protects  
 25 the environment.

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1 This SEIS, although it had import  
 2 from environmental agencies, was actually  
 3 written by aviation consultants. If I wanted  
 4 to go see a doctor, I wouldn't go to an  
 5 aviation consultant nor to a butcher. And  
 6 that's what I think is going to happen to our  
 7 environment.  
 8 If we take these aviation  
 9 consultants' words on the environmental, it  
 10 will be butchery to Biscayne National Park,  
 11 in particular, and extremely damaging to  
 12 Everglades National Park.  
 13 I come to Homestead all the time and  
 14 partake in eating and drinking in its  
 15 restaurants on my way to Biscayne National  
 16 Park where I go snorkling and out to the  
 17 Everglades where I ride bikes and spend time  
 18 in the wilderness and enjoy watching the  
 19 birds.  
 20 Many of the birds are endangered and  
 21 will be considered threats to aviation. In  
 22 many airports, bird control policies have  
 23 been instituted. At one point, Miami  
 24 International had plans to have people shoot  
 25 the birds. This was squashed by a majority

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1 the Audubon Society, along with some other  
 2 environmental groups.  
 3 We need to protect the environment.  
 4 The environment brings in tourists from all  
 5 over the world. I recall meeting people on  
 6 South Beach who flew from Sweden during the  
 7 time that the government was shut down and  
 8 the parks were shut down.  
 9 These people were tourists. They  
 10 traveled across the world to visit our  
 11 treasure, Everglades National Park, and they  
 12 weren't allowed to. We can't degrade our  
 13 parks. We must protect them. And by doing  
 14 so, we protect the economy.  
 15 We have a much greater future of  
 16 economic well-being in Homestead than all of  
 17 Dade County. We must stop this airport.  
 18 There are alternatives that can looked at.  
 19 But this airport is bad news. It was borne  
 20 out of corruption, political corruption that  
 21 emanated from Dade County with lobbyists and  
 22 commissioners. And something that was borne  
 23 out of such a corrupt beginning must be given  
 24 a proper burial. Thank-you.  
 25

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JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Debra Flynn.  
Following Debra Flynn will be Acie Franklin.

000162 DEBRA FLYNN: My name is Debra Flynn. I live in the historic Bush region of Southwest 208 street. My son's father, Neale Poster, Army, E-4, died in Germany, April 6, 1990, from negligence from army doctors, and they admitted to it.

My respect for the military is zero. A fat nothing. I now stand before you to look you in the eye and say I have no respect for you. I have no respect for the military. I have no respect for you. Help me to restore my faith in the military to make the correct decision.

I'm a American, born in Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida, 1957. I'm a South Dade County high school graduate. I'm one of the few natives. I've lived in South Dade most all of my life. A lot of people used to say this was paradise. I beg to differ.

President Clinton, in his State of the Union address, January 27, 2000, raised

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several issues, which I would like to comment on. Number one, people should have a chance to live their American dream. South Dade farmers have stood tall to feed our country during the winter months.

Please do not pollute our farmers with your fuel that's going to come down from those jets when they land at that airport.

Two, invest in farm land and conserve. The land under the flight paths are mostly farm land. How are you conserving farm land with a commercial airport which is sandwiched in between two national parks and farm land. How does the Federal Government intend on feeding this country during the winter months when jet fuel is discharged over our precious crops.

Three, open spaces. Instead of new development, open spaces. Open spaces do not need to be destroyed by pollution from discharged fuel or the existence of lights.

A commercial airport sandwiched between two national parks is not a gift to leave to our children or grandchildren or great-grandchildren. The gift we can give is

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a paradise which I enjoy leaving to my children.

Does anyone of you remember seeing the gleam in a child's eye when they catch their first kettle of fish or first lobster during mini-season. It will enable us to carry on our local tradition and bring back paradise. Protect our environment. Thank-you.

000163 ACIE FRANKLIN: My name is Acie Franklin and I'm from Naranja. Naranja is the location of Homestead Air Force Base. It's in our neighborhood. The reason it was named Homestead Air Force Base is because the nearest city to the base was Homestead. But the base is actually located in Naranja. That's our neighborhood.

In 1992 after Andrew hit, over six hundred million dollars was brought into Dade County and our community. We did not see one red cent. We don't believe in the jobs. We have no faith in this talk about jobs.

The biggest should I say endangered species of Dade County is truth. That's the

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endangered species. We have the Air Force's decision-making to select the group that's going to work with the community and Naranja employment. They're not saying what they're going to do, but I can guarantee in black and white what they're going to do. Thank-you.

JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Jill Patterson. Followed by Elizabeth Tyre.

000164 JILL PATTERSON: My name is Jill Patterson and I live in Key Largo. It's my year-round home and has been for almost twenty years. I work in the construction industry. At last night's meeting, some Miami-Dade officials seemed to be clearly stating that this is their local issue. So I ask, why is the flight path over the Keys, over Monroe County? Where are the references to Monroe County in the SEIS?

If a new commercial airport can fly airplanes without going over Key, Biscayne the Everglades or Key Largo with its five endangered species, and the Upper Keys, then I have no issue. But it can't be done.

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1 The proposed commercial airport  
2 would impact us in the Keys. You did not  
3 give us an opportunity to be heard. We  
4 requested a public forum in the Keys.

5 This study has been described as  
6 state of the art. When I received my copy of  
7 this report and it made references to the  
8 City of Key Largo and descriptions of  
9 Islamarada being the largest development in  
10 Monroe County, both are glaring errors. And  
11 there was no reference to four or five  
12 endangered species in Key Largo.

13 As an environmental impact study,  
14 this hardly seemed worth reading. It's an  
15 inaccuracy of simple facts and admissions of  
16 endangered species.

17 We all know how eight long years ago  
18 Hurricane Andrew came. But people chose to  
19 move here even without the lure of the Air  
20 Force base and without the lure of a  
21 commercial airport.

22 I listened to many politicians last  
23 night with the promise of jobs with the new  
24 commercial airport, thirty-eight thousand  
25 promised jobs. But the truth is, neither the

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1 Air Force or Miami Dade officials can  
2 guarantee jobs to anyone who lives here. Jobs  
3 will be filled by more people moving to South  
4 Florida.

5 Our economy is sound and it's easy  
6 to be fooled into thinking this way. We need  
7 to feed the population of the future and no  
8 point in having thirty-eight thousand  
9 high-paying jobs when there's no food being  
10 produced to put on the table. And don't  
11 count on the airplanes to bring produce in  
12 from other countries, they'll be too busy  
13 feeding their homes.

14 I heard no reference made at last  
15 night's meeting and the politicians didn't  
16 recognize that this district also stretches  
17 south as far as Key West. I saw no reference  
18 to Kendall in either volume of the SEIS.  
19 Thank you, very much.

20  
21 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Elizabeth  
22 Tyre. And the next speaker will be Jerry  
23 Klingbiel.  
24  
25

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1 000165 ELIZABETH TYRE. Thank you, very  
2 much for letting me come up this evening. It  
3 was a very long wait last night. My name is  
4 Elizabeth Tyre. I live in Hartford Square,  
5 which is six hundred feet away from what used  
6 to be the military housing on the northside  
7 of the base.

8 I cannot tell you all of the stories  
9 that we had through the years after Andrew.  
10 But I can say that the Air Force and FAA and  
11 co-partners in the federal parks supported a  
12 revitalization and also had an obligation to  
13 protect our national parks.

14 I recently took two weeks to study  
15 the SEIS report and it does indeed contain an  
16 impact on Biscayne National Park. The  
17 environmental collision would have enough to  
18 file a lawsuit under the federal protection  
19 law of the endangered species listed on the  
20 USWS.

21 We need jobs desperately in South  
22 Dade. Page two, lines 31 through 36, the  
23 Mixed Alternative plan projected by Collier  
24 Resource Company is to be developed early and  
25 almost seventy percent complete by 2005.

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1 That is almost a direct quote.

2 The Hoover Environmental Group  
3 offers to attract tourists from other parts  
4 of Dade County because of a world class  
5 aquarium that will be there. The mixed  
6 alternative plan envisions jobs that have to  
7 do with research, education, technical and  
8 professional careers.

9 I'm here to voice my opinion that the  
10 Collier plan would not only get us started  
11 sooner, but that we will have a hope of jobs  
12 and tourism in South Dade. Thank you.  
13

14 000166 JERRY KLINGBIEL: Good evening, my  
15 name is Jerry Klingbiel. I'm on the Board of  
16 Directors of the Sierra Club, an organization  
17 who wants to impose its will for clean water  
18 and fresh air on the masses.

19 With that said, I have some great  
20 concerns about the sprawl that is going to be  
21 associated with the airport. The area  
22 surrounding the proposed airport is all  
23 environmentally-sensitive land, agriculture.  
24 It's some of the best soil that we have in  
25 Dade County, a very unique soil. You can dig

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1 in it without breaking your shoulder. The  
2 sprawl as we can see took place around Miami  
3 International airport and other airports is  
4 devastating.

5 I have attended council hearings  
6 where people complain about sprawl  
7 congestion. This airport in this location,  
8 if you look at it, I mean, there's no place  
9 for it to go.

10 The sprawl will just encompass all  
11 of Homestead. I'm sure that's what the land  
12 owners in Homestead have in mind, all of the  
13 property being sold and being turned over.  
14 So the sprawl associated with the airport is  
15 a definite concern.

16 Another concern I have that I heard  
17 people touch upon, is that we're going to  
18 have international flights flying in and out  
19 of this airport and have flights coming into  
20 the heart of our agricultural and  
21 environmentally-sensitive land.

22 As we have seen in the past few  
23 weeks, South Dade has been devastated by the  
24 citrus canker which came into Miami. We also  
25 have the med fly. We have all types of

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1 things that are going to be coming right into  
2 the heart of our agricultural area.

3 I don't know, what would you propose  
4 to do, put all of the planes in quarantine  
5 and quarantine trucks and see if they contain  
6 some type of substance and if they can do  
7 incredible damage. Our psychic skills are  
8 going to be brought into play. We'll have no  
9 cure for it. One of our oldest plants is  
10 gone because of this.

11 Another concern I have is that  
12 there is a nuclear power plant right at the  
13 end of one of the runways. And we say to  
14 ourselves, well, you know, that's very  
15 unlikely. But it would only take a suicidal  
16 pilot to crash into it. Thank you, very  
17 much.

18  
19 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Every time  
20 you clap, that's more time between now and  
21 11:00 o'clock that you don't get to talk.

22 Ralph Pearson followed by Alice  
23 Notes.

24  
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1 000167 RALPH PEARSON: Thank you. Colonel,  
2 distinguished members of the panel and  
3 citizens of South Florida, ladies and  
4 gentlemen, my name is Ralph Pearson. I'm the  
5 Director of the Center for the Homeless, 82  
6 Arrow Drive, Southwest 125th Avenue, on  
7 already converted land, operated by the  
8 community partnership for the homeless, a  
9 non-for-profit corporation in wonderfully  
10 constructed buildings on beautifully  
11 landscaped property.

12 I would like to say that I'm first  
13 of all proud to be a native of Dade County,  
14 proud to have served my country as an officer  
15 in the United States Army and proud to have  
16 served this country as a Circuit Judge.  
17 But most of up all, I'm proud to be a member  
18 of a community that has been first in this  
19 nation that first taxed itself to provide for  
20 the poorest of the poor, the homeless in our  
21 community.

22 I'm here as a representative of the  
23 Center to express our desire to continue to  
24 work with our neighbors, whoever they may be,  
25 and with South Dade on impact issues

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1 associated with the homelessness in  
2 Miami-Dade County and particularly South  
3 Miami-Dade County. Those issues include  
4 economic development and the provision of  
5 jobs and job training for local residents,  
6 which include the homeless.

7 And in order for us to do this, we  
8 have had to join forces with numerous  
9 partners who share our common interests, many  
10 of whom I'm sure will express their views.  
11 Our mission is to reduce homelessness in  
12 South Miami-Dade County and to be good  
13 neighbors.

14 We support this community in its  
15 effort to bring meaningful jobs to South  
16 Miami-Dade County, including the problem with  
17 the homeless as we move them from  
18 homelessness to home ownership and from  
19 joblessness to employment. We trust the Air  
20 Force with input from this forum will make  
21 the right decision. Thank you, sir.

22  
23 000168 ALICE NOTES: Good evening. You'll  
24 have to pardon my nervousness. I would just  
25 like to take a few moments if I could. If the

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1 airport is built with the flight  
 2 infrastructure their talking about, there  
 3 will be planes every five minutes and the  
 4 noise is incredible.

5 If you've ever been stuck in traffic  
 6 by MIA, you've experienced the constant  
 7 flights coming in and out. This traffic jam  
 8 is all indicative of the infrastructure which  
 9 often follows airports. That in and of  
 10 itself will destroy the character of  
 11 Homestead, which is a role model agricultural  
 12 area.

13 It's an example of encroachment of  
 14 development with its foot in the door, if you  
 15 will, which will just, like I say, destroy  
 16 the character of Homestead.

17 And I'm also concerned about the air  
 18 pollution and water pollution because all  
 19 jet fuel is a dirty with hydrocarbons which  
 20 just impacts everything with the fuel  
 21 discharge that everyone is talking about.

22 The ecosystem we have here, that's  
 23 another one of my concerns, major reef and  
 24 fisheries and such things as that. This  
 25 airport would be so close to a national park,  
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1 it will take one plane to crash and put the  
 2 fuel in the environment. Everything would be  
 3 dumped in the water. Especially the  
 4 hydrocarbons, they're tearing up the economy  
 5 and environment, which I find a lot of people  
 6 fail to make the connection between  
 7 environment and economic ramifications if we  
 8 destroy our water and our air and stuff like  
 9 that.

10 A lot of my friends, they don't have  
 11 the financial resources or the ability to get  
 12 the training required for a lot of these jobs  
 13 in the airport. And the SEIS, unfortunately,  
 14 does not take into consideration the  
 15 environmental impact of the jobs, that people  
 16 bring all of their families and of course the  
 17 development. Thank you. I apologize for my  
 18 wavering voice.

19  
 20 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker  
 21 is Armando Pomar. Patty Rabin signed up on  
 22 the same card.

23  
 24 000169 ARMANDO POMAR: Good evening, ladies  
 25 and gentlemen, my name is Armando Pomar. I'm  
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1 the Florida State Director of Latin American  
 2 Citizens. We have over a hundred and fifty  
 3 thousand members in the state and we're the  
 4 oldest Hispanic organization in existence in  
 5 the United States of America. We started  
 6 this cause for civil rights in Texas in 1929.

7 Very briefly, we're supporting the  
 8 development of the airport. Like in Texas  
 9 where we supported the Anti-Defamation League  
 10 that was created, we're supporting the same  
 11 in Homestead.

12 We are Americans. Afro-Americans  
 13 and Hispanic Americans will be discriminated  
 14 economically if we do not support this  
 15 project. By the way, we do this under the  
 16 United States and North America Freedom of  
 17 Speech and we expect to go to Washington and  
 18 we're going to go directly to the President  
 19 of the United States.

20 One of the reasons, obviously, is the  
 21 economic reason, and furthermore,  
 22 thirty-eight thousand jobs. Thirty-eight  
 23 thousand jobs can make a big difference in  
 24 all of us here in this area of Miami.

25 Besides that, I've been here for  
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1 thirty years, and in thirty years we have not  
 2 been able to recover from all of this  
 3 economic disadvantage that we do have in this  
 4 county.

5 So it's not that we do not  
 6 appreciate our environment, we do love our  
 7 environment, but we're going to have a very  
 8 endangered species of Mexican Americans,  
 9 Cuban Americans and Afro-Americans and others  
 10 that are not going to be able to sustain  
 11 themselves. Thank you, very much.

12  
 13 000358 PATTY RABIN: I was here last night.  
 14 I had to leave because of my daughter,  
 15 Brielle. I'm a native Floridian and so is  
 16 she. I'm also a nursery owner in Homestead.

17 My husband and I are growers of  
 18 orchids and bromeliads and have been doing  
 19 this for twenty-five years. I respect very  
 20 much my environment. I've lived here all my  
 21 life. I've enjoyed Florida and Biscayne  
 22 National Park and Everglades National Park.

23 I'm against the airport for many  
 24 reasons. One is that I like to live in an  
 25 area that is a clean area. One of the  
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1 gentleman that spoke earlier tonight  
2 regarding the issues of the citrus canker and  
3 the med fly, these are issues that people  
4 don't seem to realize how important they are  
5 to South Dade and our agricultural area.

6 South Dade is one of the largest in  
7 the United States for winter crops. The  
8 nursery industry has now become the third  
9 largest industry in the State of Florida. I  
10 don't know if anybody realizes that, but it's  
11 a very powerful industry for the State of  
12 Florida.

13 And if the citrus industry is being  
14 hurt, than they have to do something else.  
15 By putting the airport in South Dade, you're  
16 going to hurt the environment. The damage  
17 that the airplanes are going to do is going  
18 to be monumental.

19 I have a six-year old daughter. I  
20 know a lot of people down here tonight have  
21 children. This thing is not for now, it's  
22 for the future, it's for the future of our  
23 children.

24 There were a lot of people here last  
25 night that I knew and I recognized from South

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1 Dade that were pioneers of South Florida.  
2 Those people are probably not going to be  
3 around in ten years, but they were here last  
4 night and we're here again tonight to stop  
5 this airport.

6 I'm just a regular person. I work  
7 very hard for a living. I'm living the  
8 American dream. And I know that there is an  
9 important issue about jobs, but there's also  
10 another issue, that if the Collier-Hoover  
11 plan does get accepted, there will be other  
12 jobs. There won't be thirty-eight thousand  
13 jobs, but there will be other jobs.

14 The most important thing that we can  
15 do is to protect our environment and let  
16 there be a future for our children, because  
17 our children are the future of this country,  
18 not just South Florida, not just South Dade,  
19 they are the future. Thank you.

20  
21 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: The last  
22 speaker from last night and earlier today is  
23 Alice Pena.  
24  
25

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1 000170 ALICE PENA: My name is Alice Pena  
2 and I'm here today to support the Homestead  
3 commercial airport. We hear how lives are  
4 improved and about new technology in the  
5 future and good economic outlook.

6 We hear a lot these days about the  
7 prosperity we're all enjoying in America.  
8 We've far from it in this small community of  
9 Homestead. It's been eight years since  
10 Homestead suffered the worst devastation in  
11 history due to Hurricane Andrew.

12 Homestead Air Force Base was  
13 developed in the 30s. It had B47s, B52s,  
14 F100s. It had air traffic control  
15 facilities, freight terminals and everything  
16 that an Air Force base has.

17 A commercial airport is consistent  
18 with the historical land use. It will  
19 generate jobs and match the needs of  
20 Homestead and South Miami and our neighbors  
21 to the northeast and south.

22 Our employment figures lag behind  
23 the rest of the country. We lack services  
24 and infrastructure and our inner cities are  
25 in chaos. Here the land use is being

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1 preserved, but preservation and quality of  
2 life is meaningless if we don't preserve  
3 honor and dignity for mankind and do that  
4 with good decent jobs for hard working  
5 people.

6  
7 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: I have three  
8 cards from elected officials. John Pettit is  
9 the first one. The next speaker after that  
10 will be Israel Andrews.  
11

12 000171 JOHN PETTIT: How are you. I'm John  
13 Pettit with the Community Council. And that  
14 doesn't get me anywhere. I speaking as a  
15 realist. I just observe the obvious. I  
16 won't even go with the happy and healthy that  
17 was brought up. There's no guarantee of the  
18 environment or of income.

19 I was born and raised in Miami.  
20 Around Miami Airport there are three lakes.  
21 One got the name "Blue Lagoon" because it  
22 used to be blue. Now you can't put a boat in  
23 there. If you do, and I wouldn't anymore, if  
24 you have a white boat, it comes out with a  
25 big ring around it. And the water is not

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1 blue at all. It used to be. I don't know  
 2 why, but now it's brown.

3 And I just want to say, we don't  
 4 need an airport here. There are many better  
 5 alternatives. Thank you.

6

7 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Israel J,  
 8 Andrews. Is he here. If not, we'll move on  
 9 to the next one. Jose Luis Diaz. Is he  
 10 here. Moving on. Jorge Vigil.

11

12 000172 JORGE VIGIL: Good evening  
 13 distinguished panalists, my name is Jorge  
 14 Vigil. I've been a life-long resident of  
 15 Miami-Dade County. I'm speaking now in favor  
 16 of the proposed redevelopment of Homestead  
 17 Air Base as an airport.

18 I hold this position for two main  
 19 reasons. Number one, the alternative  
 20 multi-use plan, the Collier-Hoover plan, will  
 21 make the base a public place held by private  
 22 interests beholding to other private  
 23 interests and accountable to no one but  
 24 themselves.

25 And number two, the new airport

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1 would be adequate for the next ten years.  
 2 And without a good site, all of Miami-Dade  
 3 County will ultimately suffer. And last, but  
 4 not least, it will create tens of thousands  
 5 of jobs for the economic improvement of  
 6 Homestead and South Dade.

7 The only negative drawback is, of  
 8 course, the environment and the impact of an  
 9 airport on Everglades National Park and  
 10 Biscayne National Park. On this issue, the  
 11 SEIS seems to be dispositive.

12 I'm not a biologist, not an expert,  
 13 but in my opinion, the study done by SEIS  
 14 reflects an unbiased, objective analysis of the  
 15 impact of a commercial airport upon the  
 16 surroundings.

17 The environment is important, but so  
 18 is economic development. It maximizes the  
 19 benefit that is brought to economic  
 20 development. According to the SEIS, it will  
 21 not cause a significant adverse environmental  
 22 impact.

23 Simply put, it will maximize  
 24 economic development with a minimum of  
 25 environmental impact. This in my opinion is

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1 necessary for Dade County to prosper into the  
 2 21st century. Thank you, very much.

3

4 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker  
 5 is Bob Welsh.

6

7 000173 BOB WELSH: Thank you. The runway  
 8 in Opa-locka is eight thousand feet long, one  
 9 hundred and fifty feet wide. It will handle  
 10 an L1011. It's not a thirty-mile drive to  
 11 the middle of nowhere.

12 Please consider the environmental  
 13 impact of thirty-eight thousand people  
 14 driving say thirty miles south to Homestead  
 15 versus say driving ten miles to Opa-locka.

16 I live in the approach pattern to  
 17 MIA. The flights come in one every two  
 18 minutes, but only during morning and evening  
 19 rush hours. At Opa-locka, there are plenty  
 20 of landing slots available during the  
 21 off-peak hours. Thank you.

22

23 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next name is  
 24 Pablo Ruiz. He will be followed by Luis  
 25 Padron.

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1 000174 PABLO RUIZ: Good evening and thank  
 2 you. I do not pretend to comprehend all of  
 3 the elements that cloud this issue. However,  
 4 I know I would not like to turn Homestead Air  
 5 Force Base into an airport. Unfortunately,  
 6 there are many people who can't see the  
 7 forest for the trees and are blind to the  
 8 consequences which lie ahead.

9 To many, an airport is synonymous  
 10 with jobs. I know many that don't agree with  
 11 this. They fail to see or comprehend how an  
 12 airport can improve the quality of life.  
 13 We're told if you build it, jobs will come.  
 14 They'll certainly come with a few at first,  
 15 from Coral Gables and Miami and, yes, even  
 16 from Hialeah. They will come so we are told.

17 But what we're not told is that when  
 18 they leave each day, they'll take our money,  
 19 our jobs, our businesses, our homes and  
 20 quality of life with them.

21 This is not about jobs versus gators  
 22 or trees nor is it about developer and  
 23 environmental, this is about South Dade and  
 24 the future of South Dade. It's about the  
 25 residents of South Dade and their economy.

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1 Elected officials sometimes forget  
 2 who they work for. It would be the mayor who  
 3 would stand to gain the most, along with his  
 4 company. But Mr. Mayor, how would we handle  
 5 what will follow long after you've gone?  
 6 What will we say to those parents who will  
 7 lose their children if a cargo plane should  
 8 crash into Homestead Senior High? We must  
 9 realize it's not a question of if it will  
 10 happen, but a question of when it will  
 11 happen.

12 How many sacrifices would this  
 13 community have to endure so the rich of this  
 14 county can become richer? Mr. Mayor, why  
 15 aren't you here listening to the concerns of  
 16 the people that you serve. It's time to  
 17 remove the blindfold. It will not solve the  
 18 problems in the community. It's a problem  
 19 which this community should not be forced  
 20 into.

21 Elected officials fail to listen to  
 22 the people. Frankly, if this is the best  
 23 plan you have for jump-starting the economy,  
 24 you should spend your time visiting with  
 25 Ellian. To have an airport in our community

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1 will not provide jobs for the needy or  
 2 increase the value of our property, it will  
 3 congest our roads and degrade our quality of  
 4 life by increasing noise and water pollution.

5 It will endanger the lives of our  
 6 children and increase taxes and ultimately  
 7 degrade the ability of our children to fish  
 8 and play and just plain have fun. An airport  
 9 in our community will destroy, not improve  
 10 our neighborhood. Thank you.

12 **000175** LUIS PADRON: It's important to  
 13 recognize at these meetings, this is more  
 14 than just a governmental body versus the  
 15 environment, it's building companies who are  
 16 prospering and making huge amounts of money.

17 The present officials have always  
 18 given us an educational city, that does  
 19 create a baseball team that's not a wasteball  
 20 team. The public does not want and doesn't  
 21 have to have an airport. What is best for  
 22 the land in question. The loyalty is to  
 23 campaign contributions and mainly land  
 24 developers.

25 Hialeah is a more effective version

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1 of John Gotti and they spoke in favor of the  
 2 airport last night. Did it strike anyone  
 3 strange that the mayor of a city forty miles  
 4 away should come down to Homestead to voice  
 5 his opinion on this matter. Barely  
 6 recognizable without his prison uniform,  
 7 Mayor Martinez managed to speak before any  
 8 resident of South Dade in order to give his  
 9 blessings on an airport. Isn't that odd.

10 It is not Mayor Martinez and others  
 11 who will make the ultimate decisions on this  
 12 matter. I want to hear our local  
 13 politicians.

14 These gentlemen do not understand  
 15 the meaning of the word responsibility and  
 16 these men are not to be trusted with the best  
 17 interest of the public. In fact, they're the  
 18 three stooges with their lack of management  
 19 skills.

20 For the thirty-eight thousand jobs,  
 21 how many of those jobs will be gone after the  
 22 construction is finished. How many will pay  
 23 \$10 an hour. I remind those of you enchanted  
 24 with that thought, eighty thousand in Miami  
 25 are not working.

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1 I urge the panelists to review the  
 2 studies for the past two years, review the  
 3 studies and make a comparison. Can they  
 4 protect the environment and give us the  
 5 quality of life they say they can. Thank  
 6 you.

7  
 8 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: I apologize.  
 9 Your card was misfiled. I know you were here  
 10 earlier.

12 **000176** SANDY JENSEN: My name is Sandy  
 13 Jensen. I'm a native Miami. Do you have a  
 14 video? Go ahead and play it, please.

16 (Thereupon, a video was shown)

17  
 18 A picture is worth a thousand words. Thank  
 19 you.

21 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker  
 22 is Jonathan Goldman. Next will be Charles  
 23 Monroe.

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1 000177 JONATHAN GOLDMAN: I'm Jonathan  
 2 Goldman. I'm an environmentalist and I just  
 3 have a few things to say. If you look at the  
 4 longitude on the airport, it's the same  
 5 longitude that covers the ecosystem, the  
 6 irrigation, which is a system that the Keys  
 7 and South Florida needs. Without it, there  
 8 would be a depletion of water as well as the  
 9 quality of life of the endangered species.  
 10 Under the Act of 1973, it makes a  
 11 provision for the protection of the  
 12 environment and such birds as the Woodstock  
 13 and the Capback and Seakite sparrow.  
 14 The Homestead airport would be  
 15 directly over a South Florida ecological  
 16 treasure and there are alternatives that can  
 17 be found that support the Homestead economy.  
 18 We have to live with our decision  
 19 much longer than you do. Please do not  
 20 condemn South Florida by constructing  
 21 Homestead Airport. Thank you.  
 22  
 23 000178 CHARLES MONROE: Good evening, I'm  
 24 Charles Monroe. I can only represent myself.  
 25 I believe that I'm environmentally sound in  
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1 that I can't understand how anyone could at  
 2 all believe that producing an international  
 3 airport 1.5 miles within a national park  
 4 would cause no effect at all.  
 5 I understand that people in  
 6 Homestead require economic structure and  
 7 help, but I realize and I'm concerned that  
 8 they will not get this from this airport.  
 9 I live in Miami Springs, which is an  
 10 airport community. And I know when an  
 11 airport comes, the neighborhood comes with  
 12 it. The jobs that are spoken of over and  
 13 over in these hearings are jobs that will go  
 14 to skilled technicians and people who have  
 15 been trained by the companies that intend to  
 16 run this airport.  
 17 Administrators and mechanic  
 18 technicians of all sorts will come to this  
 19 county. In fact, the people of this county,  
 20 if they can get work at the airport, will get  
 21 minimum wage dead-end jobs, which is exactly  
 22 what they're fighting against.  
 23 The people who are telling them that  
 24 they will get these jobs happen to be the  
 25 local government of Miami-Dade County and  
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1 that really doesn't surprise me. There is  
 2 corruption in our town, believe it or not,  
 3 and we cannot get rid of it with this lurking  
 4 over our heads. We ask that you remove this  
 5 threat, otherwise we will never be able to  
 6 remove what infects our bodies and our souls.  
 7 These people are desperate, but  
 8 desperate for a reason. Eight years ago a  
 9 hurricane destroyed their economy. Why in  
 10 eight years have they not been supported by  
 11 the county. Why are they told it's the  
 12 environmental facilities that you don't have  
 13 jobs and you have no livelihood. Why is it  
 14 that this is even happening at all.  
 15 They have the idea they're going to  
 16 bring in this incredible major airport that  
 17 gives everyone that needs a job, a job.  
 18 They've told that to the people. This is a  
 19 hallucination, it's a farce, they won't get  
 20 the jobs.  
 21 What concerns me as much as damage  
 22 to these national parks, is that these people  
 23 have been chosen as an army to impose  
 24 environmental elements on this issue that  
 25 otherwise would be seen as commonsense.  
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1 Thank you.  
 2  
 3 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: James  
 4 Marshall. To be followed by Sean Santani.  
 5  
 6 000179 JAMES MARSHALL: Good evening  
 7 Colonel McShane and your staff. I appreciate  
 8 you're giving me a chance to speak before  
 9 you.  
 10 I'm retired from the United States  
 11 Army and I'm a disabled veteran. I'm also  
 12 president of the Richmond Heights Homeowners  
 13 Association for the last six years. I would  
 14 like to bring you up to date about the  
 15 disruption of Homestead Air Force Base due to  
 16 nature. If you go back in history since  
 17 1930, we had some hurricanes in this area.  
 18 We had destruction, but we came back up with  
 19 Homestead Air Force Base.  
 20 Now, let me tell you something here  
 21 that would be tremendously important to the  
 22 public. Homestead Air Base was a supply line  
 23 for the Desert Storm War and Bosnia and  
 24 Kozavo. They're doing it now. We don't want  
 25 to let our guard down because we need to be a  
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1 nation of defense.

2 You know, in a nation like ours  
3 today, we have three things that we have to  
4 be very careful about; you have defense, you  
5 have humanity and support, and you have a  
6 staging ground just in case of war.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, there's still  
8 a communistic type of factor here in Dade  
9 County. We have had numerous scares. We're  
10 still in a war situation in Dade County and  
11 the United States.

12 I spent time in occupational Japan  
13 in 1949 with a scaled-down military force.  
14 We just got lucky to go into Korea in 1950 to  
15 fight the communists and to defeat them. And  
16 later on, I fought the communist Chinese,  
17 hand-to-hand.

18 Ladies and gentlemen, I'm a living  
19 example of history and I'm here to testify  
20 for all of the people and to make this a  
21 better country. I hope that the community  
22 goes back and reassesses their values for the  
23 Homestead Airport so that we can have jobs  
24 and the economic system will be stable. The  
25 environment will also be protected because we

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1 did it in the beginning. Thank you, very  
2 much.

3  
4 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Sean  
5 Santani. Moving on to Grant Livingston.

6  
7 000180 GRANT LIVINGSTON: I'm got going to  
8 say too much, but I'm going to sing for you a  
9 little bit. You might know this from the  
10 original, "Leaving on a Jet Plane" written by  
11 John Denver. I don't think he would mind if  
12 we borrow it from him.

13  
14 (Singing) There's the Everglades, a  
15 river of grass, Biscayne Bay, a sea of grass,  
16 they want to put an airport in between. Just  
17 a little airport so they say but little  
18 things have a way of getting bigger, you know  
19 what that means.

20 This airport is going to be another  
21 MIA you see, hold on now we've got to let  
22 them know, that we don't need no jet plane  
23 between The Keys and Everglades, this  
24 airport's got to go. All those promises we  
25 heard them make and all of those vows we

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1 heard them take, I'll tell you now, they  
2 don't mean a thing.

3 Every place you go, there's an urban  
4 sprawl, stop it now before they take it all.  
5 Stop it now so we don't have to sing.

6 This airport is going to be another  
7 MIA you see, hold on now, we've got to let  
8 them know, that we don't need no jet planes  
9 between The Keys and Everglades. We don't  
10 need no jet planes between The Keys and  
11 Everglades. We don't need no jet planes  
12 between The Keys and Everglades. This  
13 airport's got to go.

14  
15 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker  
16 is Paul Schwiep.

17  
18 000181 PAUL J. SCHWIEP: I was going to  
19 begin by saying the famous quote that silence  
20 is the only voice of our God, but that was  
21 some nice voices, too. I urge you to stop.  
22 Do not do this. Do not transfer the air base  
23 to Miami-Dade County. Miami-Dade County  
24 can't be trusted.

25 I want to begin by responding to

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1 this speaker that began the presentation from  
2 the airport, Mr. Dallapa. I don't know if  
3 he's here any longer. With all due respect  
4 to him, I was just astounded to hear him  
5 praise Miami International Airport's  
6 environmental record, for we who live here  
7 know that Miami International Airport, which  
8 is run by the Miami-Dade County Aviation  
9 Department, is an environmental nightmare.

10 They've spent millions of dollars on  
11 environmental evaluation because they've been  
12 ordered to. They created the problems that  
13 they have. Moreover, economically, Miami  
14 International Airport is a cesspool of  
15 procedure broken every day. We read in our  
16 papers, one fiasco after another. They can't  
17 be trusted to run the airport.

18 I was also interested to hear the  
19 attorney who got up and made a presentation.  
20 One of the criticisms of the Collier plan was  
21 that they would turn over public property to  
22 a private entity.

23 What has happened here is an entity  
24 that received a private backdoor, no-bid deal  
25 swung by the lobbyists, many of the lobbyists

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1 I've seen here today, and then given to a  
 2 private company. Millions of dollars is at  
 3 stake. We understand that. Millions of  
 4 dollars that justifies the highest paying  
 5 lobbyists, the silk-stocking lawyers, the  
 6 best in the world. But I challenge them to  
 7 disclose who owns the company, who is paying  
 8 for these fees, who have they hired to run  
 9 this campaign.

10 With respect to the SEIS, I would  
 11 urge you to read the things that the SEIS  
 12 discusses, the analyses that it makes. It  
 13 doesn't square with the conclusions that it  
 14 reaches.

15 Two hundred and thirty-one thousand  
 16 flights a year, one hundred and five flights  
 17 a day. A flight every three minutes. Two  
 18 thousand to four thousand feet above the  
 19 Visitors Center for the park. It just doesn't  
 20 make sense.

21 It's not possible to have a Visitor's  
 22 Center where the ground is rumbling under  
 23 your feet by flights every three minutes.  
 24 Three point nine million passengers annually.

25 It just doesn't make sense and it's not

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1 consistent with regards to jobs. Again, read  
 2 the SEIS. Thank you, very much.

3  
 4 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next up is  
 5 Sara Gomez and she needs a translator.  
 6

7 000182 SARA GOMEZ: (Through Juan E.  
 8 Gandara, Sr., professional interpreter)

9 Good everying. My name is Sara  
 10 Gomez and I'm going to be brief. I would like  
 11 to say that I'm in agreement with the  
 12 development of the airport in Homestead  
 13 because of the new jobs, which would be  
 14 beneficial for our community. Thank you,  
 15 very much.

16  
 17 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Andrew  
 18 Delrio. To be followed by Mark Kraus. Do we  
 19 have Andrew Delrio? Next is Mark Craus.  
 20

21 000183 MARK CRAUS: My name is Mark Craus.  
 22 I represent the Audubon Society of Florida.

23 I'm also a Dade County resident. I had  
 24 originally wanted to speak to you about

25 factual issues of SEIS, but there's one issue

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1 I would like to bring up that I think needs  
 2 to be brought to light.

3 When the lawyer discussed the  
 4 planning process, the county process and all  
 5 of the planning that went into the proposal,  
 6 there was an implication that's all of the  
 7 planning that can be done. What he failed to  
 8 tell you, the entire process was thrown out  
 9 by the state courts

10 Having said that, I would like to  
 11 point out that the airport is heavy  
 12 industrial. I've sat through several of  
 13 these meetings now and I heard earlier that  
 14 they were going to make a green airport?  
 15 Heavy industrial and green, that's not  
 16 normal. It can't be done.

17 So the Audubon Society of Florida is  
 18 against the airport. We feel there are  
 19 several other options that would be more  
 20 appropriate for this site, Mixed-Use being  
 21 high on our list. Although we support  
 22 Mixed-Use, high-tech clean industry type of  
 23 development, there are several things that  
 24 still have to be considered with that type of  
 25 development.

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1 Number one, secondary and cumulative  
 2 impacts have to be seriously considered.  
 3 There needs to be equitable economic  
 4 opportunities across the board. Economic  
 5 opportunities must exist for all.

6 There must be good transportation  
 7 planning. That site is remote. It has no  
 8 rail. It has no good road infrastructure.  
 9 And that has to be seriously considered.

10 I'm sorry, heavy industrial along  
 11 Biscayne National Park is not eco-tourism.  
 12 Infrastructure will cost and add billions of  
 13 dollars of infrastructure costs to the  
 14 residents of Dade County.

15 Open space has to be considered  
 16 critical and must be considered. A year ago,  
 17 there was a permit application that killed  
 18 birds and now we're talking about a major  
 19 airport. How many species are we going to  
 20 destroy? I see my time is just about up. I  
 21 would just like to make a statement that in  
 22 South Florida, the environment is the  
 23 economy, an airport is not the economy.  
 24 Thank you.  
 25

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COMMENTS

000184 CONNIE WASHBURN: Good evening, I'm Connie Washburn. I'm a teacher in Dade County Public Schools and I was a founder of a childrens environmental group called Young Friends of the Everglades.

I'm here representing them tonight and with your permission, I would like them to stand and face the audience so you can see the boys and girls. Will you do that so they can see the children. Thank you.

I hope that many of them get a chance to speak. They have a lot of good, well thought out things to say, as many other people have said here tonight. They brought up many points that I'm not going to go over, but I would like to make a proposal. I guess it's because I'm a teacher.

When children say something is right, that they have the right answer, I ask them to prove it. If they says it's right for us to have this airport to create all of these so-called jobs, I would like them to virtually prove it.

I would them like to see one hour of time where fifty plus large planes fly over

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the Howard Drive area, the Pinecrest area and Coral Reef area and down through Naranja into Homestead, take-off and land in a period of an hour and for us to virtually understand what that would really be like.

I heard someone say tonight that the SEIS found no evidence of pollution. Just today, one of the children in my class, I teach 4th grade, said even a ten-year-old child can name the problems of the pollution from the airport. Thank you.

JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Shelby Reyes.

000185 SHELBY REYES: Hello, my name is Shelby Reyes. I'm in elementary school and I'm a member of Young Friends of the Everglades.

The Homestead Airforce base is no longer useable. I think that the best use of the land of the airport is a wetland aquarium or a golf course. And I'll explain why I think it should be built.

My first reason is, the wetland

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aquarium is more educational. You can learn about different kinds of animals and wild life. My second reason is, since there is a closed aquarium, it is safe. Finally, the building will be environmentally safe when it rains.

There will be no air pollution coming into the building and the animals will be safe from harm and live peacefully.

That's what I think should be built for the children. Thank you.

JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Jaime Reyes.

000186 JAIME REYES: My name is Jaime Reyes. I'm an official for South Florida Council 15, which is a local immigrant group. There are three issues I want to bring up. I'm not sure if they're part of the SEIS plan or not.

Number one is the community of South Dade for the last twenty-five years has been fighting a lot of environmental issues. When you look at this plan as a whole, you've got to look at it as it relates to what we have as environmental problems. And number one is

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we have what we call a Mount Trashmore that's located in South Florida.

For three to five years, the community fought long and hard because there was some leaking that was going into the well water or underground water system.

The county convinced the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior to agree to resolve that problem. It was a very expensive problem. That had to build a seventy-five foot trench to deal with that problem.

The second issue, there's an old South Dade land fill that sits next to Mount Trashmore. It's going to be at least a hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty million dollars just to clean that up within the next fifteen to twenty years. It's in the county budget. If you get a chance, please look at it. There's going to be a lot of money spent to resolve that problem, hopefully resolve it.

The third issue, which I hope we have the county official come to our meeting, they're having problems with the sewer

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1 ingestion wells that sit next to the land  
 2 fill, which is adjacent to it.

3 And the EPA has already sided up  
 4 with the county on it and told the county  
 5 they will not permit any additional sewer  
 6 injection wells. That will resolve what they  
 7 think might be happening, such as the  
 8 percolating of the sewage back up from the  
 9 system, which is a mile deep.

10 These are some of the issues that  
 11 need to be resolved. Those need to be  
 12 reviewed as a whole as relates to the entire  
 13 SEIS plan and the impact its going to have on  
 14 the community.

15 Lastly, I just want to say this  
 16 whole process has been faulted from the  
 17 beginning. In the corporate world and  
 18 private sector, when you have a problem  
 19 that's been faulted from the beginning, you  
 20 throw out the process and start over. Thank  
 21 you.

22 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Jennifer  
 23 Gobie.

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1 000187 JENNIFER GOBIE: Good evening, my  
 2 name is Jennifer Gobie and I'm a 4th grader.  
 3 I'm a member of the Young Friends of the  
 4 Everglades.

5 My choice out of the four proposals  
 6 is for the wetland aquarium. Number one, the  
 7 Wetland crane, think about it, from about one  
 8 thousand, there's around twenty-eight left.  
 9 Number two, it will help you and me because  
 10 of the food chain. Forget about the three  
 11 other proposals.

12

13 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Excuse me,  
 14 you need to step a little closer to the  
 15 microphone so the court reporter can hear  
 16 you.

17

18 JENNIFER GOBIE: The airport, number  
 19 one, the fuel and exhaust could run down into  
 20 the soil and, number two, the planes will fly  
 21 over three schools and interrupt them two  
 22 times an hour, which means the planes will  
 23 fly over and disturb one thousand kids every  
 24 hour. Three hundred and ten planes will fly  
 25 over any given school.

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1 I want to tell you about my sister,  
 2 who is former member of the Young Friends of  
 3 the Everglades and she has written a poem that  
 4 was published in this book. I will now read  
 5 you this.

6 Concern for our earth. Throughout  
 7 the Dade County woods and trees, we still  
 8 have concern for our earth. In December in  
 9 the pines, we still have a concern for our  
 10 earth. In the woody forest and the rain  
 11 forest until we reach the mountains, we still  
 12 have concern for our earth. With the trees  
 13 and flowers all over, we still have concern  
 14 for our earth.

15 The earth is ours. We have to  
 16 protect and take care of it forever. So  
 17 don't let anyone destroy it. So what is your  
 18 choice? Thank you.

19

20 000188 NATALIE GILSS-KLEIN: Hello and good  
 21 evening, my name is Natalie Giles-Klein. I'm  
 22 here to tell you what is the right decision  
 23 to make. There are four things people are  
 24 willing to build. The four proposals, one,  
 25 an airport, two, a golf course, three, a

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1 wetland aquarium, four, a spaceport.

2 I can't imagine everything being so  
 3 crowded it would ruin our environment. You  
 4 must know what I'm trying to tell you. Don't  
 5 build the airport. Let's see, you want  
 6 fifty-two airplanes screaming in your ear an  
 7 hour. I don't think so. Who needs it. We  
 8 have plenty of airports, including Miami  
 9 Airport and we do not need any more airports  
 10 and that's a fact.

11 First, I have plenty of friends who  
 12 play golf and they don't need another golf  
 13 course. Who needs it. All you golfers out  
 14 there, I'm sure with two golf courses, you  
 15 don't need anymore. The golf courses use so  
 16 much fertilizer it poisons everything.

17 Last, but not least, we have the  
 18 spaceport. I hope you make the right decision  
 19 on all of this stuff, because it's a lot of  
 20 trouble. Just think about it. And while  
 21 you're doing that, think about other people.  
 22 Most of all, think about animals, because it  
 23 can save a lot of animals. Thank you.

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JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Jose Romero, III.

000189 JOSE ROMERO, III: Hello. I'm here to speak for the environment, the biological outlook of this. These commerial planes have provided for the environment, carbon dioxide, which helps us with our plants, which gives us the air to breath. This helps our environment. But of course they missed seeing this.

I'm sure that many of the people here in one way or other, drive in an automobile, and that consumes gasoline which releases carbon monoxide, which hurts our ecosystem. They complain about planes that are going to hurt it, but don't look at the cars they're driving every day.

Most of all, the planes that use the gas do not pollute, they actually enrich our environment. We cannot isolate ourselves from the rest of the world and not hide by our agriculture forever. We must adapt to the changes.

Many people will always be resistant

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to change, but it's until the change is done that you realize it's important. The noise level that many people complain about is the difference of ten decibels. On the map up there, it shows it in red. But in actuality, ten decibels is nothing more than a soft whisper in a quiet room or a quiet office.

Lastly, Homestead is like a child with great potential. But it's not until we give it wings that it will fly. Thank you.

JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Michael Beharry. Following him will be Elizabeth Kraus.

000190 MICHAEL BEHARRY: My name is Michael Beharry. Good evening everybody. Here are my proposals not to build the airport in the Everglades.

One, that the Everglades is a place for the animals like the Florida panther. The Florida panther is an endangered species. There's thirty of them left. It's like the last candy bar on earth. That's it. By-by.

Right down the drain. Just like that. That

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will be the same with the Everglades if we don't protect it. My children and grandchildren will never see this animal.

Lastly, our supply of water would go down the drain. Help save the Everglades. Thank you, very much.

000191 ELIZABETH KRAUS: My name is Elizabeth Kraus. I go to Howard Drive Elementary School and part of the Young Friends of the Everglades. I have ideas for the Homestead Air Force Base. I think the best use of the land is the wetland equarium because the airport and spaceport would cause air pollution and earth pollution. It causes noise and I would not want to hear fifty-two planes come in and out of the airport every hour.

The golf course ruins grass and other plants with people standing on it. The aquarium doesn't destroy animals' homes and cause noise. It doesn't pollute the environment. Everyone will be happy in some way. And the animals will have food and

enjoy life, where all human beings can watch

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the beautiful animals.

That's my idea for the Air Force Base. Thank you.

JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next name I have is Pablo Lewis. It has a different address from the Pablo Lewis I called earlier. Do we have another Pablo Lewis? Moving on. Carl Hayes.

000192 CARL HAYES: Good evening and thank-you for the opportunity for us to be able to speak on this. I would like to point out that I'm not against jobs, I'm for jobs. And there are alternative proposals out there that speak to that issue.

We're not faced here with a situation where we either have an airport or we don't have any jobs. That's not an issue. We have other industries in Florida as someone pointed out earlier. Tourism and the environment is one of our major industries.

I think the Mixed Plan, proposals like that, address both of these issues. I'm concerned when I hear things like Miami

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1 Airport expansion, that type of thing. It's  
 2 sort of alludes to the fact that it's sort of  
 3 a master plan, that we're determining a  
 4 master plan when we determine issues like  
 5 this. That's how master plans seem to be  
 6 deemed in Dade County.

7 I think as far as the airport is  
 8 concerned, we need to consider that as a  
 9 separate issue. We need to learn how to  
 10 manage the airport that we have and learn how  
 11 to manage the land use that we're looking at  
 12 right now in the Homestead area. Thank you.

13

14 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: I would call  
 15 on Edwin Lewis as the next speaker. Is Edwin  
 16 Lewis here? Passing Edwin Lewis. Carlos  
 17 Mora.

18

19 000193 CARLOS MORA: Good evening everyone,  
 20 my name is Carlos Mora. I want to thank you  
 21 all for the opportunity to express myself  
 22 against the airport alternative.

23 Approximately seven thousand years  
 24 ago, man declared war on nature. Everywhere  
 25 we went, we devastated the environment. And

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1 all of this happened because we saw and  
 2 continue to see nature and each other as  
 3 separate.

4 There is a universal truth, and that  
 5 is that we are one, we are not separate from  
 6 each other and we are not separate from  
 7 nature. Every time we destroy nature, we  
 8 destroy a part of us. We're a green and blue  
 9 spaceship traveling in space, planet earth.  
 10 Every time we destroy nature, we're  
 11 destroying our own ship. And you can imagine  
 12 what will happen when we finish with it.

13 So let us stop this process, let us  
 14 start right now by rejecting the building of  
 15 a commercial airport at the Air Force base.

16 Lack of jobs is not the problem in  
 17 South Florida, it's the lack of honesty,  
 18 compassion and love. We need compassion and  
 19 love for each other and for the environment.

20 I would like to invite any of you  
 21 that wants to find out more how closely  
 22 connected we are with each other and nature  
 23 to read the book called The Last Hours of  
 24 Sunlight written by Tom Hartman and  
 25 Friendship with God by Neale Walsh. Thank

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1 you, very much.

2

3 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next is  
 4 Katharine Horn. And then Brittany Aaron

5

6 000194 KATHARINE HORN: My name is  
 7 Catherine Horn.

8

9 000195 BRITTANY AARON: And my name is  
 10 Brittany Aaron. We're from Howard Drive  
 11 Elementary and we're a part of Young Friends  
 12 of the Everglades. We would like to tell you  
 13 four reasons to save the Florida Everglades  
 14 and not have the airport. One, the Florida  
 15 Everglades is the only one in the world.

16

17 KATHARINE HORN: Two, if the airport  
 18 is built, the animals will all die or leave

19 BRITTANY AARON: Three, save the  
 20 Everglades to let your children experience it

21 KATHARINE HORN: Four, it will take  
 22 up a lot of space.

23 BRITTANY AARON: Five, less oxygen  
 24 means less trees.

25

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1 KATHARINE HORN: Six, birds will  
 2 have to find a different place to go for the  
 3 winter.

4 BRITTANY AARON: Seven, our drinking  
 5 water would not be as good.

6 KATHARINE HORN: Eight, we would  
 7 feel sad if the airport was built because f  
 8 the Everglades would be destroyed.

9 BRITTANY AARON: Nine, the planes  
 10 would go over while we're trying to work  
 11 which would be fifty-two airplanes an hour.

12 KATHARINE HORN: Ten, the Florida  
 13 Everglades is a national treasure.

14 BRITTANY AARON: Eleven, the airport  
 15 will ruin the Everglades with noise and air  
 16 pollution.

17 KATHARINE HORN: Twelve, there are  
 18 already some animals that are almost extinct.  
 19 We ask for your cooperation and time.

20 BRITTANY AARON: Please help us kids  
 21 save a beautiful Everglades. Thank you.

22

23 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next is  
 24 Danielle Kean.

25

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COMMENTS

1 000196 DANIELLE KEAN: I'm Danielle Kean  
2 and I'm a member of Young Friends of the  
3 Everglades. We want to save the Everglades.  
4 When you save the Everglades, it's like  
5 you're saving the animals and yourself.

6 We want to save the Everglades so  
7 our children and grandchildren will see the  
8 joy of the animals. We, the students of  
9 Howard Drive Elementary, want to save the  
10 Everglades.

11 If they build an airport, the  
12 pollution will kill and destroy the joy of  
13 the animals. The Everglades is only one like  
14 in the world. Please save it before it gets  
15 destroyed. Also, there are thirty panthers  
16 left in the world, please save them.

17 The Everglades is where all of the  
18 animals go. It's where the animals trust  
19 will be safe. We would have less clean air.  
20 It's a national treasure. Plus, our drinking  
21 water would not be as good and safe.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, please listen  
23 to us Young Friends of the Everglades from  
24 Howard Drive Elementary and students also  
25 from The Keys. Save the Everglades.

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1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: I found a  
2 couple of young ladies who intended to mark  
3 their cards that they wanted to speak, but  
4 they didn't. But we have retrieved those and  
5 I'll call on Danielle Mendola at this time.  
6 Who is that with you?  
7

8 000197 DANIELLE MENDOLA: My name is  
9 Danielle Mendola. I'm from Howard Drive  
10 Elementary and Young Friends of the  
11 Everglades.

12 000198 ESTEFANIA HAGEMAN: My name is  
13 Estefania Hagenan and I'm from Howard Drive  
14 Elementary and Friends of the Everglades

15 DANIELLE MENDOLA: Ladies and  
16 gentlemen, we should save the Everglades  
17 because there is only one Everglades in the  
18 whole entire world.

19 ESTEFANIA HAGEMAN: If the airport  
20 is built, it will kill the animals and we  
21 won't have any more animals.

22 DANIELLE MENDOLA: It's just like  
23 killing ourselves.

24 ESTEFANIA HAGEMAN: God made the  
25 animals for a reason, not to kill them.

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1 DANIELLE MENDOLA: If all the plants  
2 die, we won't have clean air and no one would  
3 want smelly air with planes passing by all  
4 the time.

5 ESTEFANIA HAGEMAN: So save the  
6 Everglades because kids want their children  
7 to see the treasure of the Everglades.

8 DANIELLE MENDOLA: Don't pollute to  
9 give people jobs. Save the Everglades.

11 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next is  
12 Julio Majavier. He left? Thank you.  
13 Robert Myerberg. Is Robert Myerberg  
14 here. Andrew Delrio, I think I called his  
15 name before and he wasn't here then. I think  
16 it's a duplicate card. Susan Epler, I know  
17 she's here.

18 000199 SUSAN EPLER: MY name is Susan  
19 Epler. It's very hard to come after such  
20 elegant speakers and to be speaking towards  
21 the end of the evening. I want to let you  
22 know I'm a registered nurse. I'm also, a  
23 member of this county and I certainly urge  
24 that the Air Force not turn Homestead Airport

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1 Base over to a commercial jetport. When we  
2 built an airport next to Yellowstone, I think  
3 it's a very similar thing that would be  
4 happening here. We would be putting  
5 something that is so commerial in between  
6 two very independent eco systems.

7 I urge strongly that the area is  
8 developed in a manner that is more friendly  
9 to the environment and will still create jobs  
10 because it's true that it's an area that  
11 needs jobs.

12 So I urge you, again, do not build a  
13 commercial airport. Thank-you, very much.

15 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Raquel  
16 Vargas.

18 000200 RAQUEL VARGAS: Good evening ladies  
19 and gentlemen. My name is Raquel Vargas.

20 000359 ANA MARIA GUTIERREZ: And my name is  
21 Ana Maria Gutierrez.

22 RAQUEL VARGAS: We're here to  
23 express our reasons why we shouldn't build an  
24 airport in the Everglades.

25 ANA MARIA GUTIERREZ: One, The  
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1 Everglades is important to us because in the  
 2 Everglades almost all the animals are  
 3 extinct. There are only about thirty  
 4 panthers left.

5 RAQUEL VARGAS: Two, the Everglades  
 6 is the last home for the birds and panthers  
 7 and alligators and snakes.

8 ANA MARIA GUTIERREZ: Number three,  
 9 water from the Everglades is water we use and  
 10 is important.

11 RAQUEL VARGAS: Four, the trees in  
 12 the Everglades will be cut down to make  
 13 homes.

14 ANA MARIA GUTIERREZ: Number five,  
 15 the animals are safe and comfortable where  
 16 they are.

17 RAQUEL VARGAS: Six, also there will  
 18 be less vegetation which means less clean air  
 19 to breathe.

20 ANA MARIA GUTIERREZ: Number seven,  
 21 in the Everglades, the pollution --

22

23 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: You have to  
 24 speak up into the microphone.

25

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Page 1:

1 ANA MARIA GUTIERREZ: If you put an  
 2 airport in the Everglades, the air pollution  
 3 could kill the animals.

4 RAQUEL VARGAS: Eight, our children  
 5 and grandchildren will not be able to see the  
 6 Everglades. The airport will destroy it.

7 ANA MARIA GUTIERREZ: Our hope is  
 8 that our words will make a difference. Thank  
 9 you.

10

11 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Edwardo  
 12 Alonzo. I don't see him. Next card is a  
 13 duplicate from Shelby Reyes. Joe Nagenast.

14

15 000201 JOE NAGENGAST: Good evening. My  
 16 name is Joe Nagengast. I've lived in  
 17 Homestead for twenty years. I went last  
 18 night to the meeting and you could have sold  
 19 tickets to that, to listen to the mayors line  
 20 up. All of them, they all sounded the same.  
 21 All they did was push this for jobs, jobs.

22 There is an alternate that will give  
 23 us jobs and not give us an airport. We don't  
 24 need the pollution that's going to be dumped  
 25 on us from the airport. Today, my wife and I

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1 went out and listened to the F16s come in.  
 2 They're not as loud.

3 Then we took a drive and went up to  
 4 Miami International. The sound is totally  
 5 different up there. You can hardly hear.  
 6 The person that talked about the lake, we  
 7 stopped by it and you can't see but a few  
 8 inches down into the lake. There's a sheen  
 9 of oil that's on that lake. Nobody goes in  
 10 that lake hardly anymore with their boats.

11 We have lakes all around Homestead  
 12 Airport Base. We have canals and Biscayne  
 13 Bay. If they build an airport out there, our  
 14 lakes are going to look the same. We have an  
 15 opportunity to build something that's  
 16 environmentally safe and clean in the county  
 17 and will bring tourists. Give them a shot at  
 18 it, not this airport. Thank you.

19

20 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Jill  
 21 Patterson. Is Jill Patterson here.  
 22 Apparently not. Jeffrey Roth. Jeffrey Roth.  
 23 Dennis Gomez. Let me call on Norba Alonzo.  
 24 Norba Alonzo. Edwardo Diorion. Who's  
 25 coming?

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1 000202 DENNIS GOMEZ: Dennis Gomez. I'm in  
 2 favor of the airport. It has a lot of jobs  
 3 and, personally, I want a way to get a job  
 4 and I want to say here in Miami, my home  
 5 town.

6 I just feel that Homestead Airport  
 7 will provide a lot of jobs for kids my age,  
 8 kids going to school now. That want to stay  
 9 in Miami to get jobs, they don't want to go  
 10 away and leave their family. They always  
 11 want to stay with their family.

12 I think the airport would be a good  
 13 idea and bring a lot of new jobs for  
 14 students. I think the airport is a great  
 15 idea.

16

17 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: I'll try  
 18 again. Edwardo Diorion. Suzette Rice.

19

20 000203 SUZETTE RICE: Good evening, I'm  
 21 here tonight for this hearing and I'll tell  
 22 you, I've been in the county for years doing  
 23 zoning hearings and I understand the  
 24 development from both sides.

25 Today, I decided to address the

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1 issue of jobs from a curiosity standpoint and  
2 I called the Miami-Dade Aviation Department  
3 and I found out that MIA has approximately  
4 thirty-five thousand jobs on-site. Which  
5 really was interesting to me because they're  
6 claiming the Homestead Airport will provide  
7 thirty-eight thousand jobs.

8 It made me wonder how big they're  
9 planning to make that airport. I believe in  
10 the Collier-Roover plan and it's basically  
11 because I believe that it up-lifts the  
12 community.

13 Homestead has an image problem  
14 within itself. People always seem to  
15 apologize for being in Homestead. I worked  
16 down there, I know they did. It's a  
17 beautiful community. The parks are just  
18 incredible. And a Mixed-Use plan would  
19 change the community. It would make it more  
20 alive than it is.

21 I think that an airport is a dirty,  
22 nasty facility. I grew up the daughter of  
23 life-long Pan Am pilot and I spent a lot of  
24 time in MIA. This week I went out and rode  
25 around the airport again to make sure my

1 impressions were right. And it is dirty. It  
2 still hasn't changed.

3 The reason that I'm here is for  
4 Harry. Harry was a government employee out  
5 of Washington. He spent twenty-five years  
6 with the Department of Interior. He's my  
7 father-in-law -- or was my father-in-law. He  
8 was the gentleman who helped fight the  
9 jetport out in the Everglades and he spent  
10 the last five years of his career dealing  
11 with the jetport.

12 And I think as a daughter-in-law of  
13 a man who put so much into the Everglades, I  
14 would be amiss not to stand here and say that  
15 whatever was going to happen with the jetport  
16 hasn't changed and it's going to have the  
17 same affect on the Everglades and Biscayne  
18 National Park as it did back in the '60s when  
19 he fought.

20 In the building of South Dade, I  
21 want the footprints to be something I can be  
22 proud of myself. For Harry, thank you, very  
23 much.  
24

1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Jeff Knight.  
2 Jeff Knight here. Apparently not. Kevin  
3 Gonzalez. Kevin Gonzalez. Hector Hernandez.  
4 Richard Raboff. Steven Sabage. Luis Casas.

5  
6 000204 LUIS CASAS: Hello everybody, my  
7 name is Luis Casas. I've lived in Dade  
8 County for a long, long time. And I came  
9 here tonight to say that nothing is better  
10 for Homestead citizens than bringing the  
11 airport here.

12 I agree, one hundred percent, to  
13 make the airport in Homestead. It's really  
14 good for Homestead to put the airport there.

15 I've speaking because I came here in  
16 1958. When I came here, the Miami Airport  
17 was there and I worked there every day and  
18 could see many types of animals close to  
19 airport.

20 I heard here tonight the people  
21 talking about animals. Nothing happened with  
22 the animals. Animals live together with  
23 their species. When you go to the Keys, you  
24 can see the Egrets go close to the car and  
25 the Egrets don't worry about the car, they

1 don't worry about the airplanes. The Egrets  
2 and other animals live together with us.

3 The Wetlands is not far away from  
4 Miami Airport. You can see plenty of animals  
5 there in good health. So nothing happened  
6 with them and nothing happened with the  
7 water.

8 Engineers know about everything,  
9 they know that they can construct an airport  
10 here and don't damage anything. Thank you.  
11

12 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Robby Tovar.  
13 Robby Tobar. Marian Basesis. Marian  
14 Basesis. Paul Dean. Paul Dean. Cindy  
15 Hewitt.  
16

17 000205 CINDY HEWITT: Good evening. I want  
18 to give you all a warm congratulations for  
19 your tenacity of hanging out here tonight  
20 this long. I'm Cindy Hewitt and like many  
21 speakers before me, I take an extremely  
22 skeptical look at the accuracy of the SEIS,  
23 as well as this entire process.

24 While I live in the congested area  
25 of Dade County, I treasure the natural

1 beautiful of this land, Biscayne National  
2 Park and the Everglades and the Upper Keys.

3 A commercial airport will seriously  
4 degrade these resources and will not provide  
5 sustainable economic growth of this area. My  
6 choice would be the No-Action option.

7 However, I believe the Collier-Hoover plan is  
8 an acceptable alternative that will provide  
9 sustainable growth as well as reasonable  
10 environmental protection. I strongly oppose  
11 the development of a commercial airport and  
12 believe there are much better alternatives.

14 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Kenneth  
15 Smith.

17 000206 KENNETH SMITH: Good evening. My  
18 name is Ken Smith and I've lived in Dade  
19 County since about 1982. I've enjoyed a lot  
20 of the national parks, but I'm not sure that  
21 my enjoyment of the national parks is really  
22 the issue here.

23 I'm a businessman and took time out  
24 of my day to be here. Nobody paid me to come  
25 here. I came here because I believe that my

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1 involvement in the process of the United  
2 States goes beyond the size of campaign  
3 contributions.

4 As a businessman, I think we need to  
5 look at all of the factors involved in this  
6 thing. And we have a long set of  
7 environmental impact statements that  
8 obviously I couldn't even come close and I'm  
9 not going to try to do that in three minutes.

10 But there were a few things I was  
11 looking at. We've got some major industries  
12 in Dade County; tourism, nurseries and  
13 agricultural. People talk about this airport  
14 bringing us thirty-eight thousand jobs.  
15 We've got a lot more jobs in tourism and  
16 nurseries and agricultural than those  
17 thirty-eight thousand.

18 People come to Dade County as  
19 tourists to see what we have. And if we  
20 destroy it, they'll stop coming and that will  
21 cost a lot more. If we destroy the  
22 environment and lose our nurseries and lose  
23 our agriculture, if we dump jetport fuel in  
24 the drinking water, we'll have to pay for our  
25 drinking water and that will cost us more.

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1 I don't think there will be  
2 long-term jobs. When the construction of the  
3 airport is gone, we'll have people cleaning  
4 laboratories and they'll be poor. The big  
5 jobs, the other jobs, will be skilled and  
6 they'll look to people who don't live in Dade  
7 County. Because I haven't heard anything  
8 about people who do all the work on the  
9 jetport planes if there's going to be  
10 repairs. I haven't heard anything about  
11 that.

12 We talked about jobs in Dade County,  
13 big things that have been given to us. We've  
14 got four arenas and basketball stadiums and  
15 everything else. People got jobs who are  
16 ushers and selling beer in the stands. We've  
17 got problems here. We've got congestion of  
18 the schools and this doesn't address any of  
19 that.

20 I'm against the airport project. I  
21 don't think it does anything for us. I don't  
22 think it's going to be beneficial to the  
23 future of Dade County or the people of South  
24 Dade or the people of Homestead.

25 God gave man stewardship over the

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1 planet and that's not only fun, it's  
2 responsibility.

4 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Paul  
5 Czekanski.

7 000207 PAUL CZEKANSKI: Good evening. My  
8 name is Paul Czekanski. I'll try not to  
9 reiterate too much. I'm a person that moved  
10 to South Dade from New Jersey about eleven  
11 years ago.

12 And one of the things why I really  
13 made the move to South Dade was the fact that  
14 it was a more rural suburban natural type of  
15 area to live in. I didn't really want to  
16 live in a crowded city or an overgrown area,  
17 I wanted to live in the South Florida area.  
18 I believe that's what Dade County has  
19 capitalized on and we should not destroy it.

20 Dade County has capitalized on the  
21 ecosystem and the natural parks and natural  
22 activities. If you look at Florida City,  
23 Florida City has seized on its opportunity as  
24 the gateway to the keys, developing the area  
25 of US-1 as a gateway to The Keys and

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1 promoting something that's in sync with what  
 2 this area is.

3 I find it insulting that this  
 4 project is being pushed by many people that  
 5 don't live in this part of the county, by  
 6 politicians. Mayor Martinez was here last  
 7 night. What the hell was he doing down here?  
 8 He doesn't live here. What's his stake in  
 9 this?

10 The fact is that the process has  
 11 been marred from the beginning with the  
 12 back-door awarding of this contract. As was  
 13 mentioned earlier, that contract should have  
 14 been scrapped right up front.

15 Nobody is going against the  
 16 opportunity of jobs here, but it doesn't have  
 17 to happen in the form of a big heavy  
 18 industrial airport. Other proposals will  
 19 create jobs. And in addition to those jobs,  
 20 there will be a labor development that's more  
 21 friendly.

22 Someone else mentioned the  
 23 technology of an airport. I don't see how it  
 24 fits in. There's other types of clean  
 25 industry that could move into this area. So

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1 I don't see where technology comes in with an  
 2 airport.

3 I fail to see what's the problem  
 4 with Opa-locka Airport. I don't wish to  
 5 place our problems in other peoples houses,  
 6 however that's an airport that already  
 7 accomodates large planes. That's already an  
 8 airport and is centralized to Fort Lauderdale  
 9 Airport and North Dade County and more  
 10 centralized to areas of distribution as  
 11 opposed to coming all the way down here and  
 12 far removed from the center of distribution.

13 I don't see why it has to be down  
 14 here. I find the children act a lot more  
 15 like adults than some of these shenanigans  
 16 I've seen behind this entire process. Thank  
 17 you.

18

19 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Roderick  
 20 Tirrell.

21

22 000208 RODERICK T. TIRRELL: Good evening,  
 23 Colonel and members. I'm Rod Tirrell and I  
 24 represent twenty-two hundred members of the  
 25 Broward Sierra Club. And we appreciate the

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1 opportunity to comment on the conversion of  
 2 the Homestead Air Force Base to a reserve  
 3 airport.

4 It lies next to Everglades National  
 5 Park, between Everglades National Park and  
 6 Biscayne Bay. When we look at the South  
 7 Florida natural areas, the natural resources,  
 8 the bird life and fishing and diving, there's  
 9 millions of dollars in tourism that come to  
 10 this area.

11 The tourists come to enjoy these  
 12 natural surroundings. We worry what's going  
 13 to happen to the park, to the areas that are  
 14 around it. Everglades National Park has been  
 15 determined to be of international  
 16 significance and a world heritage site, and  
 17 we should take every precaution to keep it  
 18 and take every precaution in doing anything  
 19 with the property.

20 These issues of tourism are good for  
 21 Miami, they're good for Homestead, and not  
 22 pollution sites. This is public land held by  
 23 the public. The Army Corps of Engineers is  
 24 paying to restore the Everglades as much as  
 25 eight million dollars, and now we have this

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1 new threat to Everglades National Park.

2 The Federal Government and the Air  
 3 Force has the obligation to consider the  
 4 outcome, not only for the residents of Dade  
 5 County, but to the owners who hold this  
 6 property. The Army Corps of Engineers, like  
 7 I said, the restoration of the Everglades  
 8 will cost as much as eight millions dollars.

9 It's really unfortunate that the  
 10 leaders of Homestead and Dade County have  
 11 such a lack of vision and lack of ideas.  
 12 There are a number of proposals that have  
 13 been made. Multi-use makes sense and should  
 14 be given first consideration.

15 Airports are a massive source of  
 16 pollution. In addition to noise and  
 17 traffic, it will have cumulative affects that  
 18 will impact our air and water and parks.

19 Our lives are impacted by an airport  
 20 People come to Everglades National Park to  
 21 escape noise. Visitors come to national  
 22 parks to avoid the onslaught. Please do not  
 23 let another Federal blunder take place and  
 24 support multi-use in that area. The people  
 25 of South Dade and South Florida deserve it.

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1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Brian  
 2 Scherf.  
 3  
 4 000209 BRIAN SCHERF: My name is Brian  
 5 Scherf and I'm with the urban environmental  
 6 project that's very strongly opposed to a  
 7 commercial airport in Homestead. I think  
 8 it's a ludicrous idea to build a commercial  
 9 airport two miles from a national park and  
 10 thirty miles from an American crocodile  
 11 refuge.  
 12 The South Florida ecosystem now has  
 13 sixty-eight endangered species and the  
 14 Everglades restoration, we have ninety  
 15 percent restoration. Everglades National  
 16 Park has lost about eight different species  
 17 of birds. We're trying to recover these  
 18 birds.  
 19 I think this airport would have  
 20 grave impact on migration and nesting for  
 21 those species. The airport proposal would  
 22 also impact the ecosystem, which is globally  
 23 in peril. This should be a restoration, not  
 24 a destruction.  
 25 I would also like to recommend here  
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1 that any proposal, any alternative for the  
 2 airport be considered. You know, one of our  
 3 greatest problems in the national parks, in  
 4 1997, the park service developed a  
 5 recommendation for buffers for national parks  
 6 and it should be part of any proposal for any  
 7 alternative to the airport.  
 8 The third item I want to address here  
 9 is the compensation for the airport. This  
 10 should not be a Government give-away. I'm  
 11 sort of disappointed that the Collier-Hoover  
 12 plan, they're proposing a very minuscule  
 13 amount of mineral rights right next to the  
 14 park. There are endangered parks like the  
 15 Big Cypress in Southwest Florida. I'm coming  
 16 out against this airport. We should discard  
 17 it and do what environmentally makes sense  
 18 Thank you.  
 19  
 20 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Katherina  
 21 Vanaby. Timothy Kunz.  
 22  
 23 000210 TIMOTHY KUNZ: I'm eighteen years  
 24 old and I was born and raised here in Miami.  
 25 I'm a freshman at Miami-Dade Community  
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1 College. I'm a member of the Ecology Club.  
 2 I think in the Everglades and the  
 3 quiet that's there without an airport around,  
 4 there's something that can't be known in the  
 5 city and that's a certain unspeakable peace.  
 6 And I speak tonight not for myself,  
 7 not for the wildlife out there, not for the  
 8 other people who are aware of what it is and  
 9 what it's worth, but I speak on behalf of the  
 10 people who support this airport, because I  
 11 don't believe that they know peace.  
 12 And I think that if they had been  
 13 there, which I doubt, that they were thinking  
 14 about other things and didn't pay attention  
 15 because they wouldn't be able to support  
 16 this.  
 17 I feel compassionate, but I do  
 18 believe you should go at least once before  
 19 and if this happens. And not so much that  
 20 you should feel bad at seeing what you will  
 21 do, but that you see it at least once. Thank  
 22 you.  
 23  
 24 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Gregory  
 25 Bush.  
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1 000211 GREGORY W. BUSH: Good evening, I'm  
 2 Greg Bush. I'm a member of the Urban  
 3 Environmental group of Miami, Community  
 4 Council 12. I'm also director of the  
 5 Institute of Public History at the University  
 6 of Miami. I've been involved with some  
 7 struggles in past years in terms of the Miami  
 8 Circle and Bicentennial Park and Virginia  
 9 Key.  
 10 And basically, I just want to give  
 11 you a simple message that what I think is  
 12 going on here is part of a much broader  
 13 interlocking series of problems in terms of  
 14 public land that's becoming eroded in Dade  
 15 County.  
 16 And one of the warnings I would like  
 17 to leave you with is the nature of the  
 18 oversight of the county government because in  
 19 1982, Dade County was given Virginia Key. A  
 20 significant portion of Virginia Key is public  
 21 land. A lot of that park was left closed for  
 22 years and years and years without any public  
 23 oversight. By and large, it's still closed.  
 24 I simply warn you of that in terms of the  
 25 quality of oversight of Dade County in terms  
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1 of this land and this conveyance.  
2 I also think that in many instances,  
3 in contemporary American life, people are  
4 obsessed with big industry as a panacea. And  
5 yet what I think is even more significant and  
6 is important for you all to think about is  
7 the human scale. Homestead's very name is a  
8 concept that goes back to the Civil War,  
9 which meant small scale farming. Small scale  
10 Homestead, if you will.

11 I think the very name of this  
12 community should be considered when you all  
13 are making these decisions about the kind of  
14 changes which are going to be made. As far  
15 as I'm concerned, the Collier-Hoover plan  
16 makes a lot more sense.

17 If you take a look at Miami Lakes  
18 and others, it's much more of a  
19 human-friendly area. I think it could be  
20 developed along those lines. So I would urge  
21 you to seriously consider that. Thank you,  
22 very much.

23  
24 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Jules

25 Minkus.

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1 000212 JULES MINKUS: I'm Dr. Minkus and  
2 I've been a resident of Dade County since  
3 1966. I run a medical center in South Dade.

4 I don't believe that the transfer of  
5 the base to a commercial airport would put us  
6 more on an ecological balance than we are  
7 today. When I came to Dade County, there  
8 were seven hundred thousand people. The  
9 acquired land was tremendously deteriorating.  
10 In the past twenty years, we have maybe two  
11 million plus people living on a postage stamp  
12 of land.

13 Hurricanes came and I lived through  
14 many. I lived through the hurricane Andrew  
15 disaster and it actually destroyed most of  
16 the society that was built up down here.  
17 Homestead and South Dade is essential to the  
18 development of the population and I believe  
19 there's a limited need for a commercial  
20 airport in that area. The Air Force Base has  
21 been there serving a national purpose, but  
22 there are smaller aviation airports that  
23 serve recreation use which may be considered.

24 But to turn that area into a  
25 high-industry area would only destroy the

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1 quality of life. Nobody comes to any area to  
2 go to the airport. An airport is a plateau  
3 that you go through.

4 Basically, many of the residents  
5 that use to come to retire to South Dade to  
6 get out of the cold, no longer come here.  
7 Few people come here voluntarily. Now we  
8 have twenty-five percent poverty rate in Dade  
9 County and a growing problem from an economic  
10 standpoint.

11 Building an airport, in itself, will  
12 produce jobs, I guess, greater jobs for our  
13 community like somebody said for the poor.  
14 We have two basketball arenas, which we  
15 probably don't need and they're right down  
16 there on the waterfront. We managed to  
17 destroy the environmental area. We've got  
18 concrete jungles.

19 And putting an airport down there  
20 will waste the water. And I don't know if  
21 you saw on 60 Minutes, they say there's new  
22 additives in our gasoline that will pollute  
23 almost every ground water in the United  
24 States.

25 I have thirty seconds more. Let me

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1 finish up by saying the pollution from the  
2 Miami International Airport will take years  
3 to get over. And if we continue to pollute  
4 our ground water, we'll have to move in a  
5 hurry and not before a hurricane blows us  
6 out. Thank you.

7  
8 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Jim McMasters  
9 is next.

10  
11 000213 JIM McMASTERS: I'm Jim McMasters.  
12 In the next twenty years it's projected that  
13 one million more people are going to come to  
14 Dade County. I'm sure you've been down to  
15 Homestead on the Turnpike. As you can see,  
16 lines are almost down to Homestead.

17 The question now is whether we put  
18 an airport down there which will pretty much  
19 rule out middle-class housing down there or  
20 would the suburbs of Miami move down to  
21 Homestead and have middle-class housing down  
22 there.

23 I live in the City of Miami. We  
24 have the Port of Miami within the city limits  
25 and Miami International, which is the seventh

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1 largest airport. Homestead has today, a  
 2 nuclear power plant, a limited military  
 3 airport, a baseball stadium, a speedway and  
 4 some of the best farm land in the nation and  
 5 two national parks.

6 Homestead is the entrance to the  
 7 Florida Keys. It has the Village of  
 8 Homestead within the city. Tell me any other  
 9 small town in America that has half of these  
 10 assets. We need to stop complaining and use  
 11 what we have and not put an airport down  
 12 there.

13 The Villages of Homestead is within  
 14 the city limits of Homestead. What will the  
 15 impact be of an airport. They're going to  
 16 destroy the very assets that they're using  
 17 now.

18 Who are the people that are  
 19 complaining about the noise at Miami  
 20 International Airport? They're the people on  
 21 the upper east side on the bay, they're the  
 22 people on Brickell on the bay, they're the  
 23 people on Key Biscayne, seven miles away.  
 24 They talked to the FAA. They went out to  
 25 visit the site. What have they done about

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1 the noise? Absolutely nothing. They refuse  
 2 to do anything.

3 Opa-locka has been told by the FAA  
 4 to reduce the number of flights in Opa-locka  
 5 and Tamiami. Check your facts about the FAA.  
 6 It took the EPA to enforce the replacement of  
 7 the cross pipeline that was leaking and  
 8 getting ready to explode.

9 We have a sewage treatment plant in  
 10 the middle of Biscayne Bay. It took a court  
 11 order to get the county to start working on  
 12 it. We're looking at a third of a billion  
 13 dollars of pollution clean-up. They refused  
 14 to do anything until the EPA stepped in.

15 Unless you start dealing with the  
 16 pollution at Miami International Airport,  
 17 as the Mayor of Miami Springs said, it  
 18 reduced the quality of life, because the  
 19 pollution from the airport is pulled into the  
 20 north well area.

21 We hear a lot about promises. I  
 22 live in Coconut Grove. We have developers  
 23 coming in saying they will develop and help  
 24 the poor folks in Coconut Grove. We haven't  
 25 seen a change. Thank you.

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1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Marleen  
 2 Kutler. Okay. That completes all the cards  
 3 of individuals who had not spoken before.

4 I'll go through the cards of  
 5 individuals who have already spoken at least  
 6 once at these proceedings.

7 Richard Frost. I believe he's gone.  
 8 Jamie Brown still here? I don't see her.  
 9 Jonathan Ullman still here?

10  
 11 000214 JONATHAN ULLMAN: Good evening. I  
 12 guess we're closing up another road. It's  
 13 hard sitting throughout of these hearings.  
 14 I'm Jonathan Ullman, national director of  
 15 Sierra Club of South Florida.

16 I would like to say there's a good  
 17 reason that I'm one of the last people, it's  
 18 because I'm going to be here at all the  
 19 meetings, but I'm really glad that you  
 20 instituted that rule that people who had  
 21 already spoken at other meetings can't speak  
 22 again because this limits the eight or so  
 23 politicians that spoke at the first meeting  
 24 to grandstand and to represent the developer.

25

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1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: You can  
 2 speak again, you just speak last.

3  
 4 JONATHAN ULLMAN: Right. But  
 5 anyway, I'm going to talk a little bit now  
 6 about noise. And noise is something that  
 7 really bothered me when I read this SEIS.

8 There were some statements that  
 9 didn't kind of jive with some of the  
 10 statements that the kids were making. I  
 11 mean, I don't want to tell the kids, you  
 12 know, I'm sorry kids, but your thoughts about  
 13 noise get in the way of this very large  
 14 contract that was awarded.

15 But there is something about noise  
 16 in the SEIS. It says studies in national  
 17 parks by FAA and the Air Force showed no  
 18 correlation between increasing noise levels  
 19 and visitors. Well, I thought I would play  
 20 the noise and see if this is not an annoyance  
 21 (Recording was played.)

22 Okay. That's basically what you  
 23 would be hearing every minute during the  
 24 daylight hours with a two hundred and thirty  
 25 plus flight airport.

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1 Then there was another statement in
2 the SBIS, which was a little bizarre.
3 Generally visitors are considered to be less
4 sensitive to aircraft noise in area parks
5 where there is substantial human activity and
6 more sensitive to aircraft noise in areas
7 where there is minimal human activity.
8 Visitors in groups who are accompanied by
9 children tend to be less sensitive to noise
10 than people who are not surrounded by others.
11 That's my time. Good night.

13 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Manny
14 Romero.

16 000215 MANNY ROMERO: Good evening
17 everybody. I want to be short and sweet
18 like yesterday. I believe somebody was
19 saying in 1940 this land was owned by Dade
20 County and it was transferred to the Federal
21 Government. I think it makes sense to me to
22 give it back to Dade County.

23 I think that we're talking about the
24 taxpayer's money to build the airport. The
25 taxpayers are going to pay taxes and be part

1 of the solution. It's going to bring
2 thirty-eight thousand jobs. That's a lot of
3 jobs. We're talking about one million
4 dollars in the next fifteen years.

5 It's going to take a year and cost
6 us over five hundred thousand dollars to do
7 the study and the only place they say the
8 airport can be put is in Homestead.

9 We don't need more studies. Just
10 give it to Dade County and move on. Thank
11 you. Good night.

13 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Ignacio
14 Sanchez. Is he still here? I don't see him.
15 Javier Herrera.

17 000216 JAVIER HERRERA: Hello, my name is
18 Javier Herrera. I wanted to show you a video
19 and I apologize for that. I'm a student and
20 eighteen years old. I represent the young
21 community, which will be the ones that will
22 benefit from all of this.

23 I plan on attending a four-year
24 University and returning to Miami. I do not
25 want to go away or travel to the West Coast

1 to get a job, I want to work at home, not as
2 a caddy under the Collier-Hoover plan or as a
3 ticket-taker with an advanced degree I
4 obtained from a university from my own hard
5 work, I want a job of the future.

6 And from the knowledge I've
7 gathered, an airport is what the Homestead
8 community is used to and this is a time of
9 need. I feel you guys are making the right
10 decision. Go ahead and build your airport.
11 Thank you.

13 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Ana Palma.

15 000217 ANA PALMA: My name is Ana Palma.
16 I don't know much, but I know that we need
17 more jobs and there's a lot of unemployment.

18 I was there yesterday in the meeting
19 and I noticed there were a lot of older
20 people, most of them retired. They don't
21 need a job; we do, our children do. They're
22 growing up. They're starting out. Most of
23 them are studying computers and other careers
24 and they'll need a job. Please, do make the
25 airport come true.

1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Luis Casas
2 That may be a duplicate. He's not here
3 anyway. Bill McClure still here. Apparently
4 not. John Sikes. John Sikes here. Lloyd
5 Brown.

7 000218 LLOYD BROWN: Since I'm speaking to
8 an almost empty room, I'm going to deviate
9 from my presentation and just address a
10 couple of topics for the people who have
11 stuck it out.

12 A young man spoke a minute ago about
13 wanting a job. I worked on the last
14 Homestead project that was supposed to bring
15 jobs, the Homestead Motor Complex. There
16 were only two people on the crew that was
17 actually from the area. Everyone else was
18 from Texas, Kansas, North Carolina and
19 Mexico. They were not from the area.

20 People who are going to be working
21 in a commercial cargo airport are already
22 working in those jobs. They're not going to
23 be creating new jobs, they're going to move
24 existing jobs into this area.

25 About the unemployment statistics, I

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1 heard a lot of people talk about unemployment  
 2 numbers in Homestead. Here are the  
 3 Department of Labor statistics. The highest  
 4 unemployment in the past ten years for  
 5 Homestead was in the seven months preceding  
 6 Hurricane Andrew when the Homestead Airport  
 7 Base was fully operational. It was 10.3  
 8 percent for those seven months. The last  
 9 month we have statistics for was November of  
 10 '99. And just three months ago, it was down  
 11 to 5.5 percent. That's pretty good.

12 There's some people that couldn't  
 13 hold a job if you tied them to it. One month  
 14 before that, 5.4 percent, the lowest the  
 15 unemployment has been in Homestead in the  
 16 past ten years. Anyone that tells you  
 17 there's an unemployment monster in Homestead  
 18 is lying to you.

19 I'm going to deviate from my prepared  
 20 speech. I would like to say that the  
 21 Environmental Impact Statement said it would  
 22 be a good idea to build an airport. They  
 23 also said it would be a good idea to put an  
 24 airport in Alaska and maybe to put a nuclear  
 25 power plant on Three-Mile Island. Union

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1 Carbide didn't have to deal with that. When  
 2 we went to build the chemical plant, we  
 3 didn't have to deal with the environment to  
 4 build a plant in Chunoba.

5 So I would just like to conclude by  
 6 quoting Edward Abbey, by saying growth for  
 7 the sake of growth is the philosophy of the  
 8 cancer cell. Thank you.

9

10 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Jerry  
 11 Patterson. Ramon Vasquez. That's all the  
 12 cards I have.

13 Is there anybody that I may have  
 14 called your name that was out of the room  
 15 that didn't get to speak? Anybody who hasn't  
 16 spoken who would like to speak tonight?

17

18 000219 BLANCA MESA: I would like to speak.  
 19 My name is Blanca Mesa and I'm a resident  
 20 here in Dade County. I would like to say  
 21 something about the SEIS.

22 There are two things I would like  
 23 you to look into. One, the agricultural  
 24 retention study that Miami-Dade County was  
 25 supposed to have completed several years ago

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1 in order to retain agriculture in South Dade,  
 2 and the other one is the Biscayne Land-Use  
 3 study that the Government and cabinet were  
 4 going to do a couple of years ago and never  
 5 did it. They are two things that must be  
 6 completed and analyzed before any kind of  
 7 proposal for an airport can be done.

8 It's completely premature for you to  
 9 perceive and have this as part of the SEIS.  
 10 There are many areas that need to come  
 11 together and figure out what they need to do  
 12 and have a buffer around it, to buy the land  
 13 you need and to identify the funding source  
 14 that's purchasing all this land.

15 You're saying this airport is  
 16 environmentally friendly and actually going  
 17 to improve the environment. None of this is  
 18 in here. We don't know how much it's going  
 19 to cost.

20 We didn't know the taxpayers would  
 21 be stuck with three hundred and thirty-four  
 22 million dollars that it's going to cost for  
 23 the new arena. No one told us that before.

24 My final comment is you need to  
 25 extend the written comments. Thirty days is

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1 not enough time for the general public to  
 2 analyze pounds of material. It's very  
 3 complex material.

4 Key Biscayne is an area of the  
 5 community north of the Biscayne National Park  
 6 that will have a flight plan. There have  
 7 been no meetings on Key Biscayne. These are  
 8 things that you need to look into, to extend  
 9 the written comment period by a substantial  
 10 period of time so a person can really  
 11 understand what's at stake here and what's  
 12 missing and what needs to be studied.

13 We need to take more time because it  
 14 took millions of years to create. It took  
 15 much longer for the land to rise from the  
 16 ocean. And so if you make a mistake, it's a  
 17 permanent mistake and you need to proceed  
 18 very carefully. Thank you.

19

20 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Okay.  
 21 Anybody else? We've got one more?

22

23 000220 ANTONIO MARTIN: Yes. I would just  
 24 like to make a comment. My name is Antonio  
 25 Martin. I'm a resident of Dade County, born

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COMMENTS

1 and raised in Miami and served four years in  
2 the Marine Corps with an honorable discharge.

3 I'm a student at Miami-Dade  
4 Community College. I have brothers and  
5 sisters and nieces and nephews and I'm in  
6 support of the No-Use option and to retain  
7 the Air Force facility for what it was  
8 designed for. Thank you.

9  
10 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Okay. I  
11 want to thank everybody for your comments and  
12 for participating in this public hearing.  
13 Your comments will be extremely helpful to  
14 the Air Force and other agencies in preparing  
15 the Final SEIS. As we close here, I want to  
16 remind you that if you didn't comment tonight  
17 or if you decide you have more to say, please  
18 write your comments down. You can leave them  
19 here with the staff tonight in the box on the  
20 comment table or you can mail them in later.  
21 Make sure they are mailed no later than March  
22 7th. Thank you, again, for attending this  
23 public hearing.

24 This hearing is adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

25 (Thereupon, the hearing was adjourned.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF DADE

I, CAROLYN BURNS, Court Reporter,  
certify that I was authorized to and did  
stenographically report the above-entitled hearing  
and that the transcript is a true and complete  
record to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not a  
relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of  
the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of  
any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected  
with the action, nor am I financially interested  
in the action.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2000.

CAROLYN BURNS  
Court Reporter

**Transcript of  
Public Hearing**

**February 3, 2000  
12:30 p.m.–2:50 p.m.**

**Renaissance Ballroom  
5901 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami, Florida**

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PUBLIC HEARING  
ON  
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT  
DISPOSAL OF PORTIONS OF THE FORMER  
HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

ORIGINAL

Thursday, February 3, 2000  
12:30 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.  
Renaissance Ballroom  
5910 S. W. 8th Street  
Miami, Florida

Thereupon, the following Public Hearing was held before CHIEF TRIAL JUDGE MICHAEL B. McSHANE.

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(Thereupon, for persons wishing to state their opinions before the commencement of the Public Hearing, the following private sessions were held:)

000221 RUTH MORALES-GIRON: My name is Ruth Morales-Giron. First of all, I do believe in economic development, but not at the cost of the environment and the future generations.

I think there's other ways to go ahead and generate jobs and other places where an airport could be constructed. I'm in favor of protecting the Everglades, because by protecting the Everglades we protect ourselves and because I see the Everglades as the kidneys and the blood vessels of South Florida, you know, just the way the Amazon is the lungs of the world.

As the Everglades are right now, with all of the farming and everything, it already has a big negative impact on it and the airport will be the last straw. I'm speaking as a citizen and I feel I have a moral and ethical obligation to speak out for the future generations.

Our drinking water depends on the Everglades. The Biscayne aquifer and all of the living organisms, they all need the Everglades and

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without the Everglades, we won't have anything.

People don't see that. Right now people are looking at the airport as a job-generating place. And it could be, but in the long term, everyone is going to be impacted by it.

The water is going to be contaminated. People are going to have cancer and all of that. In my lifetime, I've seen a lake dry up and the decay of the Rain Forest. In seven and a half years, that's all it took for the lake to be gone and the rain Forest to deteriorate. You know, it's the river of life. We all depend on water.

Turkey Point is a stone's throw away and, you know, if anything happened, a plane crashing or anything, that would be the end of South Florida and everything around it. So I guess we don't need the bad man on the island to do anything if we already damage it ourselves.

000222 DAVID B. GENOVESE: I would have to say that it seems to be a bit unfortunate and is absolutely unnecessary that we build a commercial airport. I would hope the other alternatives that are there with the Collier group and the other three different alternatives, three out of the

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four has got got to be better than a commercial airport.

It just seems very unfortunate. It seems to me it would be an environmental nightmare, so to speak, if we build a commercial airport that is close to our natural resources. That's about all I have.

Public Hearing  
12:30 p.m.

JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Just a couple of announcements before we get started. If you have signs or banners, take them off your seats. Please do not display them from the seats, you'll be blocking someone else's view.

And I learned this at the other hearings, a lot of people have cell phones out there. Please turn them off.

At this point, I anticipate that we will end this afternoon's session no later than about 4:30 p.m. It depends. If we have one or two speakers, I'm sure we'll be gone and finished, but at this time, I anticipate no later than 4:30.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

# COMMENTS

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1 Welcome to the Public Hearing on the Draft  
2 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the  
3 Disposal of Portions of the former Homestead Air  
4 Force Base.

5 My normal duties include presiding over  
6 Air Force court-martials, but this week I've been  
7 made available to preside over this series of five  
8 hearings which are being held in this area  
9 concerning the disposal and subsequent reuse of  
10 former Homestead Air Force Base property.

11 Just so you know, I have not been  
12 involved in the development of any of these  
13 proposals that are being considered, and my job is  
14 just to make sure that we have a fair and orderly  
15 hearing here today.

16 I want to thank you for taking time from  
17 your busy schedules to come here today for this  
18 public hearing. If you're interested in further  
19 information about the proposals, I hope you took  
20 time to visit with the technical staff prior to  
21 this portion of the hearing.

22 In preparing this Draft Supplemental  
23 Environmental Impact Statement, or Draft SEIS,  
24 which you will hear us refer to it as, it was the  
25 Air Force's goal to understand the environmental  
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1 implications of deciding for what purpose and to  
2 whom to convey surplus property at former  
3 Homestead Air Force Base.

4 The Draft SEIS examines reasonable ways  
5 in which the property might be developed, used,  
6 and the reasonably foreseeable environmental  
7 consequences of the alternatives.

8 At this time, I would like to introduce  
9 Major Mike Chipley of the Air Force Executive  
10 Issues Team. He is an engineer with a Ph.D. in  
11 civil engineering from the University of  
12 California.

13 Major Chipley will discuss the proposed  
14 action and alternatives and provide a short  
15 synopsis of the reuse issues. Since the overall  
16 purpose of these hearings is to obtain input from  
17 you on the contents of the Draft SEIS, the  
18 presentation will be short.

19  
20 MAJOR MIKE CHIPLEY: Thank-you, Colonel  
21 McShane. I, too, would like to extend my thanks  
22 to all of you for taking time to provide your  
23 comments on the Draft SEIS.

24 For the past several years, we have been  
25 engaged in the process of completing the  
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1 realignment and reuse of the former Homestead Air  
2 Force Base as required by the Defense Base Closure  
3 and Realignment Act.

4 The Air Force's primary goal in this  
5 process is to transfer the properties in a manner  
6 that supports local plans for economic  
7 revitalization of South Florida and protects  
8 Biscayne Bay and the nearby national parks. A  
9 disposal must also be compatible with continuing  
10 the existing military and law enforcement  
11 missions. The Air Force and Federal Aviation  
12 Administration, or FAA, are the designated lead  
13 agencies for the Draft SEIS.

14 The Air Force has decision-making  
15 responsibilities for the transfer of the property.  
16 The FAA has decision-making responsibilities for  
17 airport facilities.

18 There are three cooperating agencies.  
19 One cooperating agency is the National Park  
20 Service because it manages Biscayne National Park  
21 and Everglades National Park. Another cooperating  
22 agency is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
23 because of its responsibilities to ensure  
24 threatened and endangered species are adequately  
25 considered and because of the proximity of  
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1 Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

2 And the third cooperating agency is the  
3 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of  
4 its regulatory responsibilities.

5 The contractor hired by the Air Force to  
6 actually conduct the analysis is Science  
7 Applications International Corporation, or SAIC  
8 for short. They have been supported by another  
9 contractor, Landrum and Brown, which performed the  
10 airport planning and noise analyses.

11 I would like to take a couple of minutes  
12 to update you on the SEIS process and what has  
13 occurred since the scoping period ended in July of  
14 1998. More than 440 individuals, organizations  
15 and agencies provided written input during our 132  
16 day scoping period. And 195 people spoke at our  
17 public scoping meetings.

18 The size and complexity of the Draft  
19 SEIS has grown substantially because of the number  
20 and diverse nature of issues and because of the  
21 many federal agencies, state and local  
22 governments, private organizations and concerned  
23 citizens involved.

24 Midway through the analysis, two  
25 mixed-use proposals were received which were  
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1 incorporated into the analysis. We recognize that  
 2 this has been a long process for everyone. We  
 3 want you to know many other communities have also  
 4 struggled through the base closure process.

5 Some former bases have been developed for  
 6 aviation uses, others for non-aviation uses. The  
 7 success of redevelopment depends upon the local  
 8 community involvement and support.

9 The Draft SEIS examines a number of reuse  
 10 alternatives for remaining surplus property at the  
 11 former base. Ongoing reuse involving property  
 12 that has already been transferred, like the Job  
 13 Corps Center, the Dade County Homeless Trust, the  
 14 regional park and other needed properties, would  
 15 continue under any of the alternatives.

16 The alternatives underwent thorough and  
 17 complex analyses of the environmental and economic  
 18 impact that could potentially occur as a result of  
 19 redevelopment. Fourteen topics were used as the  
 20 basis for the analysis.

21 Public and agency concerns that were  
 22 expressed at our scoping meetings identified  
 23 important issues and helped focus our analysis.  
 24 Those concerns have been incorporated throughout  
 25 the Draft SEIS.

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1 When the reuse planning process was  
 2 initiated for Homestead Air Force, Miami-Dade  
 3 County was designated as the local reuse authority  
 4 to develop a reuse plan for the former base. The  
 5 county has proposed that the 1,632 acres of  
 6 remaining surplus property at former Homestead  
 7 Base be transferred to Miami-Dade County Aviation  
 8 Department for development of a commercial  
 9 airport.

10 This is the proposed action addressed in  
 11 the Draft SEIS. The analysis of the proposed  
 12 action included identifying and assessing new  
 13 flight tracks that would be used at the commercial  
 14 airport.

15 Airport operations, in general, are  
 16 characteristically different than commercial or  
 17 residential land uses in the types of numbers of  
 18 vehicles, equipment and people, and the resulting  
 19 impact to the environment.

20 The main issues of the proposed action  
 21 involve air pollution, storm water run-off and  
 22 noise levels. Another alternative examined in the  
 23 Draft SEIS is a commercial spaceport. The main  
 24 issues with the commercial spaceport alternative  
 25 involve the uncertainties related to the licensing

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1 process, safety and potential increase in noise.

2 Three approaches were examined for  
 3 non-aviation uses, presented as the Mixed-Use  
 4 Alternative, Market-driven development, The  
 5 Collier Resources Company proposal, and the Hoover  
 6 Environment Group plan.

7 The Mixed-Use alternatives could create  
 8 higher intensity of use in a shorter period of  
 9 time, but may have less environmental effects on  
 10 the national parks.

11 The Draft SEIS also includes the No  
 12 Action alternative, which means the property  
 13 continues to belong to the government and reverts  
 14 to caretaker status.

15 Under each alternative, the Air Force,  
 16 Florida Air National Guard, and Customs Service  
 17 continue to use the runway for their current  
 18 military missions.

19 The Draft SEIS addresses each alternative  
 20 in the context of future growth in South Florida  
 21 and also takes into account potential cumulative  
 22 impacts of other projects. It also includes some  
 23 historical information where available.

24 Your views and comments on the Draft SEIS  
 25 will be important as we work toward completing the

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1 Final SEIS. We are now about half-way through the  
 2 60-day public comment period.

3 We scheduled these hearings to provide  
 4 you an opportunity to review the Draft SEIS and  
 5 formulate comments you can give here today, and  
 6 also to provide some time after these hearings so  
 7 you can incorporate things you might learn here  
 8 tonight, into written comments.

9 Whether you choose to comment today or to  
 10 provide your comments in writing between now and  
 11 March 7th, we look forward to receiving your  
 12 inputs and assisting us in completing the Final  
 13 SEIS.

14 The Final SEIS, scheduled for completion  
 15 in July, 2000, will include comments made at the  
 16 public hearings or submitted in writing during the  
 17 public comment period for the Draft SEIS, along  
 18 with Air Force and FAA responses to your comments.

19 A decision on what action will be taken  
 20 concerning the transfer of the disposal property  
 21 will be made no earlier than thirty days after  
 22 publication of the Final SEIS.

23 We will continue to distribute news  
 24 releases and send newsletters to those on our  
 25 mailing list throughout the final course of the

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# COMMENTS

1 SEIS process. Anyone wishing to be added to the  
2 mailing list should complete an attendance card  
3 located at the registration table in the foyer and  
4 check the appropriate box on the card.

5 In summary, I would like to say that we  
6 do understand this is a complicated and often  
7 frustrating process. Let me reiterate that  
8 neither the Air Force nor FAA proposes to directly  
9 develop the surplus property.

10 The Air Force's goal is to transfer the  
11 property in a manner that supports local plans for  
12 economic revitalization and protects Biscayne Bay  
13 and the nearby national parks. A disposal must  
14 also be compatible with continuing the existing  
15 military and law enforcement missions.

16  
17 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Thank-you, Major  
18 Chipley. Each of the proponents of the  
19 alternatives shall have the opportunity to  
20 describe their proposal and speak about it.

21 Miami-Dade County representatives have  
22 been given ten minutes to speak about their  
23 proposals. You may also have noticed that some of  
24 the other proponents, although they elected not to  
25 give a presentation, have materials available at

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1 the tables in the back of the room.

2 At this time, I would call on the  
3 representatives from Miami-Dade County to discuss  
4 their proposal.

5  
6 BRUCE DRUM: Good afternoon, my name is  
7 Bruce Drum. I'm Assistant Aviation Director for  
8 Airside Operations. I'm speaking today on behalf  
9 of our aviation director, Mr. Gary Dallapa.

10 On behalf of the Miami-Dade Airport  
11 System, I want to thank you for giving us the  
12 opportunity to present our Department's  
13 recommendations for the redevelopment of the  
14 former Air Force base.

15 It's important for this panel to bear in  
16 mind that the additional capacity issues that are  
17 addressed today are not just South Dade issues,  
18 not just Miami-Dade County issues, but issues of  
19 great concern to all of South Florida.

20 In previous testimony, you have heard  
21 from other elected officials on what the decision  
22 on reuse means to the continued prosperity of this  
23 county. History is on the side of aviation.

24 The South Florida community has a  
25 long-standing prominent position in aviation  
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1 dating back to the first airline terminal in the  
2 United States. Since 1928 and continuing through  
3 tourism of foreign trade, this community has come  
4 through a line of aviation histories. as the  
5 underpinning of our local economy and the chief  
6 provider of jobs.

7 All is not well however. The current  
8 system of airports is taxed to the extremes of its  
9 limits and will prove unable to meet future market  
10 demands unless augmented by new aviation.

11 In support of this understanding, the  
12 airport has a display with documents and graphics  
13 on future aviation demand and our capacity to meet  
14 that demand. It's imperative that you understand  
15 that the inability to meet market demand, means  
16 loss of economic growth and seriously impacts our  
17 employment base and business community.

18 You may be aware of our efforts to  
19 accelerate the construction of a fourth runway at  
20 Miami International Airport. That is the single  
21 most important element of the department's  
22 long-range development plan. However, this final  
23 plan to meet our capacity at Miami International  
24 will not be able to meet the air traffic forecast  
25 for beyond the year, 2015.

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1 Our primary development strategy is to  
2 provide the facilities now as well as long-term  
3 demand. The critical element of this strategy is  
4 the flexibility to be able to react to future  
5 aviation growth that may be unforeseen today in  
6 stimulating foreign commerce growth.

7 Miami-Dade's most limiting capacity  
8 constraint today is the number of full service  
9 commercial runways available in our airport system  
10 to safely manage aircraft. MIA is currently at a  
11 point where no additional runway can be provided.

12 Numerous efforts in the last three  
13 decades to identify new sites in South Florida for  
14 a commercial aviation facility have proven  
15 fruitless. There are no other sites.

16 Consequently, the most crucial issue confronting  
17 us today is a decision on the ultimate reuse plan  
18 for Homestead Air Force Base.

19 That decision will effect whether or not  
20 this community will be able to accommodate the  
21 tremendous world-wide growth in aviation that is  
22 forecast, a growth that we will be unable to meet  
23 with MIA and our other airports alone.

24 For example, as we reported in the SEIS,  
25 Opa-locka has air space and environmental issues.  
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1 From an aviation point of view, the conclusion is  
 2 inescapable, we need the Homestead airport. The  
 3 need for a long-term capacity demand will not come  
 4 at the expense of environmental incompatibility.

5         One of the Aviation Department's  
 6 objectives is to provide aviation to meet demands  
 7 while ensuring a balance between environmental  
 8 issues, quality of life and economic issues for  
 9 Florida residents.

10         The SEIS shows there are no environmental  
 11 impacts associated with the airport alternative.  
 12 Commercial aircraft is found to be less intrusive  
 13 on the Everglades than those resulting from the  
 14 military presence.

15         Miami-Dade County is committed to  
 16 ensuring that the plan and development of the  
 17 commercial airport is done in an environmental  
 18 manner. This is not just words. Miami-Dade  
 19 Aviation has a track record of environmental  
 20 responsibility. We've spent over one hundred and  
 21 seventy million dollars since 1994 to address  
 22 environmental issues. One of the main objectives  
 23 of our current program is maintaining the  
 24 environment not only of the air, but of the soil  
 25 as well.

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1         These are very real, very tangible  
 2 statements to hear. The meaning is clear, that  
 3 under the leadership of the County Commission and  
 4 our County Manager, no one should fear the airport  
 5 alternative. Miami-Dade Aviation is in full  
 6 agreement with the activity proposed in the SEIS.

7         The projected operations provide for  
 8 future demands. We believe that the airport is  
 9 most compatible with the land use. Furthermore,  
 10 advances in airplane and engine technology should  
 11 be under consideration.

12         We have commercial flight activity. This  
 13 is evident in the mandatory conversion statement.  
 14 This change was effective January 1, 2000.  
 15 Another example of this type of technology change  
 16 is increase in the use of flights of the major air  
 17 carriers.

18         In conclusion, we are at the crossroads  
 19 as to the future of aviation in South Florida.  
 20 This is our only opportunity to preserve a  
 21 valuable airport, regional aviation, and allow  
 22 this county to grow and prosper. Thank-you.

23

24         RAMON RASCO: Ladies and gentlemen, my  
 25 name is Ramon Rasco. I represent the developer

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1 selected by Miami-Dade County in a competitive  
 2 process which resulted in a very fair and  
 3 inclusive lease for the development of a clean  
 4 high-tech airport that is compatible with our  
 5 environment.

6         You just heard Bruce Drum for the  
 7 Aviation Department. For the record, there is  
 8 conclusive evidence that this community needs  
 9 another airport and the logical and suitable site  
 10 is Homestead. Ladies and gentlemen, there is no  
 11 other feasible site in our community.

12         After seven years of the most  
 13 comprehensive studies in our nation, we have now  
 14 seen the results in the Draft SEIS, which is so  
 15 strongly opposed by many groups. Some of the  
 16 groups are not doing studies and trying to win  
 17 with litigation. So I say to them, let them throw  
 18 a bomb big enough to stop this project. We will  
 19 not be intimidated.

20         Ladies and gentlemen, the SEIS  
 21 conclusively shows that this airport can be built  
 22 without damage to our parks or environment. The  
 23 appropriate measures are taken. In addition to  
 24 the SEIS and the other federal studies, this  
 25 county has paid for over twenty-seven other

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1 studies and mitigation plans that were developed  
 2 in order to protect our environment from the  
 3 impacts of this commercial airport.

4         The developer will put on the record and  
 5 once again state publicly on the record that they  
 6 are committed to making all appropriate mitigation  
 7 efforts in order to build an airport that is  
 8 compatible with our parks and environment.

9         Ladies and gentlemen, the airport plan at  
 10 the former Homestead Base is the best plan for our  
 11 community. Don't take my word for it, read the  
 12 SEIS. And don't be afraid of intimidation  
 13 tactics. Thank you, very much.

14

15         JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: This concludes a  
 16 presentation of information about the proposals.  
 17 In a few minutes, we will begin the public comment  
 18 portion of the hearing.

19         You will have several ways to provide  
 20 your comments. If you brought written comments,  
 21 please place them in the box on the comment table  
 22 out in the lobby. Written comments do carry the  
 23 same weight as oral comments, which are presented  
 24 here at the hearing.

25         If you want to write down your comments

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1 while you're here, there are forms on the comment  
2 table to do that. You can take a form home to  
3 complete and mail it back to the address which is  
4 provided on the comment form.

5 You can also write your comments in your  
6 own format and mail them in. You do not need to  
7 use the comment forms; they are only provided for  
8 your convenience.

9 You will have the opportunity to provide  
10 oral comments when I begin the public comment  
11 portion of the hearing in just a couple of  
12 minutes.

13 Let me tell you a few things about the  
14 public comment period. Since we've calmed down  
15 from the Tuesday night crowd, we're going back to  
16 the usual procedure. Elected officials will  
17 speak first, then we will hear from those that  
18 submitted cards today indicating their desire to  
19 speak.

20 I plan to call people in the order that  
21 their cards were submitted. And depending on the  
22 size of the crowd today, I may have the repeat  
23 public speakers wait until all new speakers have  
24 made their comments. Anyone who has not yet  
25 filled out a card, should do that as soon as  
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1 possible so we do not miss anyone who wishes to  
2 comment.

3 Each individual or organization will have  
4 three minutes to provide comments. You may finish  
5 your sentence when your time is up. Please stop  
6 promptly so we can hear the maximum number of  
7 people.

8 Boos and clapping take time away from the  
9 time the speakers will have to speak today.

10 Please respect their viewpoints and let them make  
11 their comments without interruption.

12 When you are called up to the microphones  
13 in the aisles, please clearly state your name and  
14 the name of the organization that you are  
15 representing before you make your comments so the  
16 court reporter can get that down.

17 The transcript will be the permanent  
18 record of this hearing and will be published in  
19 the Final SEIS. Please do not provide any  
20 personal information in your comments if you do  
21 want to see it published in the final SEIS. It's  
22 very important that you use the microphones so  
23 that the court reporter and everyone else in the  
24 room can hear you.

25 The focus now is to listen to your  
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1 comments regarding the contents of the Draft SEIS.  
2 Preceding this presentation, you had an  
3 opportunity to ask questions one-on-one of the  
4 technical staff and hopefully they answered all  
5 your questions.

6 Any further questions asked in the course  
7 of making your statements will be addressed in the  
8 Final SEIS rather than answered today. So again,  
9 please focus your comments on the Draft SEIS and  
10 the analysis of the reuse options.

11 If you need to have your comments  
12 translated into English and did not so indicate  
13 when you signed in, let us know when you come up  
14 to speak. If you make comments today and later  
15 decide you have additional comments or know  
16 someone who is interested in the comment process  
17 but was unable to attend any of the meetings,  
18 written comments can be submitted until March 7,  
19 2000. The mailing address can be found in all of  
20 the available hand-outs.

21 At this point, I'm going to go ahead and  
22 start calling on people. First, State  
23 Representative Casiro Herrero. He doesn't appear  
24 to be in the room. I'll go to Mario Diaz-Velarde.  
25 He left. Okay. Patricia Keon. Patricia Keon, is  
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1 she here. Apparently not. Javier Souto.

2  
3 000223 JAVIER SOUTO: Good afternoon, I'm Javier  
4 Souto, commissioner from Miami-Dade county. I'm  
5 here to express my support for the construction of  
6 the airport, for the refurbishing of the base so  
7 it will support a commercial airport.

8 As you know, Miami-Dade County is one of  
9 the most important areas of the world vis-a-vis  
10 the commercial air traffic. We have a global  
11 designation. We're a gateway to Latin America.  
12 We're known world-wide.

13 We have only one functional airport as  
14 you know. The airport is located in the middle of  
15 this great community. The way it's going, the  
16 airport is not going to accommodate so much  
17 traffic. There are sometimes three or four or  
18 five large planes landing at the same time. We  
19 don't have to be rocket scientists to understand  
20 that imposes a risk to our community.

21 For all of those reasons and also the  
22 reasons of the community that some of the people  
23 have expressed, I think it's really important that  
24 we develop the airport as a commercial airport.

25 Thank you, very much  
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1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Representative  
 2 Herrero here? Apparently not. Patricia Keon.  
 3 Next individual will be Nestor Penedo and we need  
 4 the translator.  
 5  
 6 000224 NESTOR PENEDO: (Through Juan E. Gandara,  
 7 Sr, interpreter)  
 8 Good afternoon, my name is Nestor Penedo.  
 9 I'm director of the Cuban Environmental  
 10 Association. We have never been involved in any  
 11 hearings in the State of Florida or Miami because  
 12 we are the type of organization which is dedicated  
 13 to denouncing in regards to the operation being  
 14 done by the Cuban government.  
 15 We have realized our function for twelve  
 16 consecutive years in the United Nations, sharing  
 17 the philosophy of the Earth Summit for twelve  
 18 years and the loss of space and sustainable  
 19 development. Progress can live with the  
 20 environment.  
 21 This airport is already an airport for  
 22 military aircraft. We are detaining progress for  
 23 the community that is needed. And the laws and  
 24 the regulations of the protection of the  
 25 environment are being followed and there is no  
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1 danger to us living together. Human beings are  
 2 the most perfect realization.  
 3 All the species are not controlling each  
 4 other, man has control of them and man has also  
 5 destroyed part of the environment, but also has  
 6 created measures to resolve problems.  
 7 There are interests that lead to  
 8 developing businesses and they are bona fide, but  
 9 there are also interests which do not act with  
 10 their cards on the table because they have their  
 11 hidden agendas. It's not the same thing and  
 12 everybody knows who they are, trying to develop an  
 13 area and who hide behind the mask of the  
 14 environment.  
 15 Like it happens in Seattle where they are  
 16 capable of sending noxious quantities of carbon  
 17 dioxide into the atmosphere, we believe measures  
 18 have been taken that are not going to affect the  
 19 quality of life in Florida. Thank you, very  
 20 much.  
 21  
 22 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker is  
 23 Santiago Portal. Again, we need the translator.  
 24  
 25 000225 SANTIAGO PORTAL: (Through Juan E.  
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1 Gandara, Sr, interpreter)  
 2 The two groups that are confronting this  
 3 movement, the environmentalists, and those who  
 4 want to develop this area of Florida, they could  
 5 be very much in agreement with each other and thus  
 6 reach the goals that they have proposed for  
 7 themselves.  
 8 I have had the solution to the problem of  
 9 the environment since 1987. I have tried to reach  
 10 all of the governmental agencies, including the  
 11 White House. Nobody in the United States  
 12 government wants to solve the problem of pollution  
 13 in the environment. But I do believe there are  
 14 millions of others who do want the solution.  
 15 I do hope that these gentlemen, the ones  
 16 who are opposing the airport, and they have indeed  
 17 invested millions of dollars, and the people of  
 18 this movement, get together and eventually they  
 19 can contact me so we can solve this situation  
 20 because it could be solved. We can have  
 21 conversion systems. It's time for all individuals  
 22 who develop them to have an opportunity because  
 23 it's necessary to reach the great development of  
 24 this great nation. They do involve universities  
 25 and technological institutes. I do hope that  
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1 somebody contacts me to talk about this important  
 2 solution. Thank you, very much.  
 3  
 4 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker is  
 5 Dwight Kraai.  
 6  
 7 000226 DWIGHT KRAAI: Based on what I have  
 8 heard, to me it's my opinion that it does not make  
 9 sense to develop the Homestead Air Force Base to  
 10 serve as a reliever airport. Fort Lauderdale  
 11 Airport already exists that's closer to Miami  
 12 International Airport than the Homestead Air Force  
 13 Base.  
 14 I enjoy trips into Biscayne Bay. It's  
 15 absolutely wonderful to be able to anchor off of  
 16 Elliott Key and other bay areas to enjoy a  
 17 peaceful day, but the noise from the arrival and  
 18 departure of hundreds of airplanes daily would be  
 19 just terrible.  
 20 The Mixed-Use plan takes an existing  
 21 airport and provides for economic development, yet  
 22 it protects the environment. The Mixed-Use plan  
 23 should be the one that is accepted. Thank you.  
 24  
 25 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: The next speaker  
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1 is Jon Ullman.  
2  
3 000227 JONATHAN ULLMAN: Hi, how are you today.  
4 My name is Jonathan Ullman. I'm the South Florida  
5 representative for the National Sierra Club. The  
6 Sierra Club is a national organization with about  
7 six hundred thousand members in the United States.  
8 We're the oldest and largest grass-roots  
9 environmental organization and we're absolutely  
10 opposed to the airport.

11 The airport will be destructive to two  
12 national parks, Biscayne and Everglades National  
13 Park. These are world resources that we have.  
14 Hundreds of visitors come to these parks every  
15 year and they do not want their experience to be  
16 clouded by a commercial airport with two hundred  
17 and thirty thousand flights per year in its first  
18 phase. That will be a plane every minute during  
19 daylight hours.

20 Now, you may ask why are we so concerned,  
21 what is the problem here. Well, the problem here  
22 is that we're not going to let the park areas that  
23 are preserved by this great nation that are  
24 preserved for eternity not just for the next  
25 generation but for the next and the next and the  
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1 next, be compromised by one entity.  
2 This is a national park system. We get  
3 visitors from over the world who come to see the  
4 best of this great land. This commercial airport  
5 if built would be the largest commercial airport  
6 next to a national park in the United States. I'm  
7 going to play for you the sound that visitors will  
8 hear every minute and you tell me if it's  
9 acceptable to you.

10 (A recording was played.)

11 The rest of the country is not going to  
12 worry about this. Thank you.

13  
14 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: OSCAR DIAZ:

15  
16 000226 OSCAR DIAZ: My name is Oscar Diaz. I'm  
17 a citizen of this county for forty years and I  
18 think this is one of the most important issues  
19 that this community has ever been confronted with  
20 I would like to consider myself an  
21 environmentalist. I love the outdoors and I enjoy  
22 national parks as well as anybody else. I'm the  
23 oldest person in the Association of Cuban  
24 Engineers. I have discussed this matter with many  
25 of my colleagues.

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1 It's my belief that this airport is very  
2 necessary for this community. I believe that the  
3 pollution control and constraints that are going  
4 to be placed on this airport are not going to  
5 damage the environment. I believe that jobs will  
6 be created that are needed by this community.

7 By the way, I just want to make a comment  
8 about the gentleman that just spoke. He most  
9 likely flew into Miami. Thank you, very much.

10  
11 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Darren Harrell.

12  
13 000229 DARREN HARRELL: Good afternoon everyone,  
14 my name is Darren Harrell. I'm a Representative  
15 of the National Audubon Society and Florida  
16 Audubon Society.

17 The Audubon Society is well aware that  
18 the residents of the Homestead community need  
19 jobs. We're not taking away from that. But what  
20 we're saying is that an airport is not the only  
21 solution. There are other alternatives.

22 The Audubon Society proposes more of a  
23 Mixed-Use plan. I'm going to speak to that in a  
24 minute. What I want first to talk about is what  
25 is being done.

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1 A lot of the supporters of the airport  
2 and the Homestead residents that are wearing the  
3 T-shirts that say Airport Jobs, we appreciate  
4 seeing all the T-shirts, but I want to take a  
5 closer look at that. If you really think about  
6 it, the number of employees within an airport, the  
7 airport leases space to the airlines and the  
8 airlines take employees based on the amount of  
9 cargo they ship and the amount of passengers that  
10 use it.

11 It's not known exactly how many airlines  
12 will use the airport and how many passengers will  
13 go through each airline or how many jobs are going  
14 to be provided granted, thirty-eight thousand jobs  
15 is an ideal situation, but there is no guarantee  
16 that we will have thirty-eight thousand jobs.

17 Another point is, a lot of these jobs are  
18 hired-hand jobs, which means existing airline  
19 employees from Opa-locka, MIA and Fort Lauderdale  
20 will have first chance at these jobs. What does  
21 that tell you in reference to Homestead. All the  
22 hired-hand jobs will disappear.

23 You will not have the opportunity for  
24 these jobs because you don't have the experience  
25 and you're not in the Union. That is going to  
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1 mean the lower end of \$6 and \$7 an hour jobs.  
 2 A lot of people are saying they want to  
 3 support their families. How are you going to  
 4 support your families by making \$7 an hour  
 5 handling luggage. That's something that the  
 6 airport planners have failed to discuss. They  
 7 tell you we have thirty-eight thousand jobs, they  
 8 don't address the income behind the thirty-eight  
 9 thousand jobs.  
 10 Like I was saying, as far as the Mixed  
 11 Use, Mixed Use will provide a large variety of  
 12 jobs, not just low-end jobs which would be left,  
 13 and it will provide jobs of a variety of levels  
 14 for a variety of different people. Basically what  
 15 I'm trying to say is this airport is just a quick  
 16 major reaction to an economic problem. And we do  
 17 admit there is an economic problem.  
 18 Well, my time is up, but I just want to  
 19 say we can do better than promoting a program that  
 20 is going to provide low-income, minimum wage, \$5  
 21 and \$6 jobs  
 22  
 23 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Marielene  
 24 Villamil.  
 25

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1 000230 MARIELENA VILLAMIL: Afternoon and thank  
 2 you. My name is Marielena Villamil and you  
 3 pronounced it very well. I'm the president and  
 4 CEO of a commercial research firm based here in  
 5 Coral Gables.  
 6 Commercial development for the 21st  
 7 Century needs more products and services. And  
 8 Miami-Dade County has a comparative advantage in  
 9 the sense of an airport. The role of Miami-Dade  
 10 County has been an avenue of commerce between the  
 11 United States and Latin America.  
 12 The role is already well documented by  
 13 the recent studies of the Association of Florida  
 14 Enterprise that indicates the strong need to  
 15 expand the infrastructure of this county into the  
 16 21st.  
 17 The total trade in Florida reached a  
 18 record sixty-nine billion dollars in 1998. In  
 19 South Florida, which is District 52, which goes  
 20 from Fort Pierce to the Florida Keys, it was about  
 21 eight percent of the total. Our studies forecast  
 22 by the year, 2003, total trade in Florida will  
 23 reach a hundred billion dollars and a hundred and  
 24 twenty-six billion dollars by the year, 2008.  
 25 This gives us a strong argument in favor

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1 of expanding and enhancing the present  
 2 infrastructure to handle efficiently the increased  
 3 trade and job opportunities as Miami-Dade County  
 4 attempts to benefit and to respond to future  
 5 needs.  
 6 In essence, airports are the logistic  
 7 centers for commercial trade. Increased trade  
 8 means opportunities for Miami-Dade County, but it  
 9 does not necessarily mean that we will be the  
 10 recipients of such trade if the infrastructure is  
 11 not present.  
 12 The airport in Homestead would be  
 13 positioned so as to solidify the role of  
 14 Miami-Dade County in the future trade area.  
 15 Therefore, the Homestead airport is  
 16 necessary in order create jobs and and create  
 17 economic activity in Miami-Dade County, Florida  
 18 for the 21st Century. Thank you.  
 19  
 20 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Alicia Kehrehahn.  
 21  
 22 000231 ALICIA KEHERHAHN: My name is Alicia  
 23 Keberhahn. An airport will do irreparable damage  
 24 to Biscayne National Park and Everglades National  
 25 Park, our two unique treasures. The better

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1 solution is to expand Opa-locka because they have  
 2 the infrastructure. In fact, the mayor welcomed  
 3 the idea and said he will provide what is the best  
 4 development plan.  
 5 What would be the best way to protect the  
 6 environment and provide jobs is the Collier-Hoover  
 7 plan. How lucky we are that the Department of the  
 8 Interior has recognized the threat imposed by the  
 9 airport to the ecology, the safety of a nuclear  
 10 power plant and quality of life in Homestead. The  
 11 Collier-Hoover plan will provide jobs to the  
 12 people of Homestead while preserving the wildlife  
 13 and quality of our national parks. Please reject  
 14 the airport plan.  
 15  
 16 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next is Michael  
 17 Volante.  
 18  
 19 000232 MICHAEL VOLANTE: Good afternoon. My  
 20 name is Michael Volante. Thank you for letting me  
 21 speak today. I've been a resident of Miami all of  
 22 my life. I was born and raised here.  
 23 As we heard, Miami International Airport  
 24 may reach full capacity by 2006. I don't think  
 25 anyone can deny that a relief airport will be

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1 needed. Homestead Air Force Base is the only  
2 possible alternative. Logistically, it offers  
3 safety. Opa-locka airport does not.

4 The Collier plan is a weak attempt to  
5 create a smoke-screen over the issues. The last  
6 thing we need is another golf course or a public  
7 aquarium or shopping mall. Golf courses use  
8 fertilizers and use excessive amounts of water.  
9 An aquarium removes fish and animals from their  
10 natural environments. The Collier plan can be  
11 more of an environmental hazard than an airport  
12 plan.

13 The issues that have been pointed out by  
14 environmentalists against the airport, these  
15 issues have been addressed by the Draft SEIS  
16 study. And now it's time to move ahead to the  
17 betterment of our county.

18 I would like to create a new term today,  
19 an environmental realist. The definition I'll  
20 give to this term is a person that provides a  
21 solution to a problem which deadlocks  
22 environmental and human needs.

23 Being an environmental realist is  
24 difficult. It strikes a cord in the two opposite  
25 groups. It addresses the environmental needs and  
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1 uses new technology for food storage and water  
2 runoff as well as management

3 There is no reason that the future of  
4 this project should be jeopardized over these  
5 issues. There is no reason that the future of  
6 Miami-Dade County should be jeopardized over these  
7 issues.

8 Let us be environmental realists and do  
9 the right thing, make the right choices and  
10 respect the environment and restore Homestead Air  
11 Force Base to its rightful place in aviation.  
12 Thank you, very much.

13  
14 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Edward Malcer

15  
16 000233 EDWARD MALCER: My name is Edward Malcer.  
17 I've been in Miami since 1943 and I represent the  
18 435th Aerotroop, a veterans association. We've  
19 been in the Miami area and the Homestead Air Force  
20 Base in the early 50s, when it was a small air  
21 base down there with a tower. And we've flown  
22 aircraft C46, C198, 130s and jets. I had been  
23 stationed at the air base for training also for  
24 the Cuban Crisis during the 60s.

25 And basically what we would like to do is  
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1 just to have a place to stay because we were at  
2 the Miami International and we needed space so we  
3 moved to Homestead. We would like to have a  
4 continuation of the area reservists there in  
5 conjunction with the other facilities.

6 We should have a close relationship with  
7 all of South America and Caribbean regions of the  
8 world. Environmentally, you have the water and  
9 places for all of the people there. We want to  
10 keep that and also possibly for the Air Force to  
11 have a recreational area for the retired people  
12 and a place for families that would be reasonable  
13 and affordable, such as Hawaii, Europe and other  
14 places. Thank you.

15  
16 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next is Jose  
17 Romero.

18  
19 000234 JOSE ROMERO: Hello, again, my name is  
20 Jose Romero. I'm here in favor of the return of  
21 the land to Dade County. Dade County used to have  
22 all the land and now it's time to give it back to  
23 Dade County.

24 An airport on this land has growth for  
25 the future. I think South Dade needs jobs, these  
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1 thirty seven thousand jobs. We need the airport.  
2 Thank you.

3  
4 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Greg Ballinger  
5 here? Next is Candida Mesa. We need a  
6 translator.

7  
8 000235 CANDIDA MESA: (Through Juan E. Gandara,  
9 Sr., professional interpreter)

10 I would like to give my greetings to all  
11 the people present here. You are very cultured  
12 and intelligent and smart.

13 I come here because we have a right to  
14 give our opinion. I want to be brief. I have  
15 lived here since 1962 when it was clean and  
16 beautiful. My grandchildren have had wonderful  
17 times in the area.

18 I'm against the airport because it causes  
19 very many illnesses and we want to live and bring  
20 up our grandchildren in a clean environment.  
21 That's the most important thing.

22 I want to say to all of those people that  
23 know anything, first of all, the families are  
24 first. I don't know what else to say. Excuse me  
25 for being a housewife. Thank-you.

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1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Gwladys Scott.

2

3 000236 GWLADYS SCOTT: I understand the need for

4 the Homestead Air Base to continue to be a

5 military airport, but the use of the land for a

6 commercial airport is first of all a very poor

7 location. It's in a cul-de-sac of what surrounds

8 it. It would have to be approached from the north

9 and have massive amounts of roadways to get people

10 to and from it.

11 It will not benefit South Dade. Maybe it

12 will certain individuals, but I presume a lot of

13 the money would be made for folks that are not in

14 South Dade. I presume there will be many jobs,

15 but I presume that those also will not be for

16 South Dade.

17 The major objection for me is that it is

18 in the wetlands environment and has parks east and

19 west and really The Keys to the south and it's on

20 the edge of a population center. And there will

21 be, unfortunately, even with state and county

22 regulations, which this of course will come under,

23 there will be ground water pollution. Currently

24 there's that sort of problem at the Homestead

25 Airport Base. And at this time, the Miami  
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1 International Airport is not free of pollution and

2 that, unfortunately, will be the case in the

3 future.

4

5 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker will

6 be Luisa Arce.

7

8 000237 LUISA ARCE. Hello, my name is Luisa

9 Arce. My address is 26420 Southwest 122nd Avenue.

10 I live in Naranja. I'm here today as a resident

11 of my community, Naranja, and a neighbor to you.

12 I want to speak on behalf of an endangered

13 species, the people of Naranja.

14 I want you to know that my community has

15 the highest unemployment in the South Dade County

16 area. And it's also well-known that my community

17 had been named the Dead Zone by our own county.

18 My community needs jobs. My community

19 also has a great need for our children to have a

20 better quality of life. The children are our

21 future. We're starving in our area.

22 I want you to know that I have three

23 children myself, which I would defend with my life

24 and I defended the park in Naranja. I fought for

25 that park. I defended the park, because it was  
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1 going to be what is now a golf course there. I

2 think it's a waste of nature. There was land

3 destroyed to be a lake. I fought for that.

4 I want you to know in my community,

5 Naranja, this air base was the heart of it. Before

6 Andrew, we had a great economy. After Andrew, not

7 even the flies go there.

8 Airplanes are going to fly over my head

9 and I'm in favor of it. Right now, everyone

10 closes their eyes from 216th all the way to The

11 Keys. Until they get to The Keys, they don't open

12 their eyes.

13 And it's a shame that we're here today

14 defending birds and frogs and we're forgetting

15 about something that's very important, humans.

16 Humans are first. Thank you.

17

18 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: The next speaker

19 is Bill McHugh.

20

21 000238 BILL McHUGH: I'm Bill McHugh with McHugh

22 & Associates, airport consultants. I'm here to

23 speak for the conversion of the Homestead Air

24 Force Base into a joint-use military and ancillary

25 airport.  
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1 This airport has been at this location

2 since 1930 and has had a variety of military

3 operations during that period of time. Many of

4 these operations have been active and very noisy

5 because military aircraft make more noise than

6 civil aircraft.

7 Therefore, suffice to say that the

8 proposed civil use, along with the military use of

9 this airport, does not interrupt the historical

10 use of the airport at this area.

11 This type of conversion of a military

12 airbase is not new. The military has turned air

13 bases over to municipalities since the end of

14 World War II. As a matter of fact, this airport

15 was turned over to Dade County in 1946 and then

16 reacquired in 1952.

17 Many of these facilities have been

18 successful and have brought economic growth to the

19 communities. As a matter of fact, in the United

20 States today, there are fifteen thousand airports.

21 And of those fifteen thousand, seven thousand are

22 open to the public. Of the seven thousand open to

23 the public, around four thousand have received

24 federal assistance one way or the other.

25 Of that four thousand, six hundred and  
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1 fifty airports in the United States are subject to  
2 federal surplus property transfers as this  
3 facility would be. They have brought industry,  
4 either light or heavy, to the community, along  
5 with roads.

6 This successful formulation development  
7 over the years for air field reuse has derived  
8 sufficient land with the transfer in order to  
9 induce industry and to help support the airport.  
10 This has brought economic development to the  
11 community as well as additional jobs.

12 This is not to say that all of those  
13 living in the community today will receive jobs as  
14 a result of this transfer. This means that the  
15 opportunity is there for them to get jobs.  
16 Granted, many of the people that live in this area  
17 will not qualify for jobs, but some training will  
18 help them get the jobs they need. Thank you, very  
19 much

20  
21 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker is  
22 Paul Brohman.

23  
24 000239 PAUL BROHMAN: Good afternoon, ladies and  
25 gentlemen. This is an issue affecting my home.  
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1 Even with the high professional caliber of  
2 operations of the U.S. Air Force, it is my  
3 understanding that prior agricultural land will be  
4 used to establish a buffer zone around the  
5 airport.

6 This land would become unavailable for  
7 agricultural due to run-off of airport  
8 contaminants. I find it difficult to understand  
9 how this does not constitute an unacceptable  
10 environmental impact.

11 Airplanes crash. Now, that's a truth.  
12 Consult the Miami daily newspaper to confirm this  
13 fact. I don't wish for a crash zone to border my  
14 backyard. Many speak for airport development,  
15 however no one whom I heard speak is going to buy  
16 my house located at the end of the proposed  
17 east-west runway.

18 Perhaps they're waiting for values to  
19 drop ten to thirty percent. I'll become a  
20 prisoner of my own home. No longer will the  
21 windows be open to the South Florida breezes.  
22 Politicians choose to ignore my opinion. Of  
23 course these people don't live in my neighborhood.

24 Yes, this community needs jobs. The  
25 development of the airport, however, I cannot  
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1 support. It should not be necessary to destroy  
2 all that my neighbors and my family now enjoy.

3 Alternate proposals offer jobs, a lot of  
4 jobs. Mixed-Use can be a livable alternative.  
5 There's no proposal to provide for unskilled  
6 labor. As a certified tradesman living in  
7 Homestead, my rate of pay is \$10 to \$12 an hour.  
8 Don't be swayed by promises of high-paying jobs,  
9 it simply won't happen.

10  
11 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Eladio  
12 Armesto-Garcia:

13  
14 000240 ELADIO ARMESTO-GARCIA: Good afternoon,  
15 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Eladio Garcia.  
16 I was on the Miami Zoning Board. I have three  
17 kids. If you go by US-1 and 216th Street, it's a  
18 Ghost Town. In the 21st Century, it can be  
19 compared to a Ghost Town.

20 My question to everybody is, what's the  
21 difference between an airplane carrying military  
22 personnel and other airplanes traveling with  
23 groceries and merchandise. What's the difference.  
24 Tell me, I want to hear it from the commission if  
25 there is any difference.

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1 I used to be a pilot myself. There's no  
2 difference. It's the same airplane, manufactured  
3 by the same company. Why now is it different if  
4 it's used for civilian purposes. Will you tell me  
5 the difference.

6 Yes, the people that know about aviation  
7 have said that the civilian aircraft, the cargo  
8 aircraft, produces less contamination, less noise.  
9 I'll be happy to tell you this is not true. And  
10 by the way, I'm been here for forty years and have  
11 four kids and eighteen grandchildren born in  
12 Jackson. Some live in Miami. I can speak for  
13 myself, my wife and four kids and my  
14 grandchildren, Cuban and American. Four children,  
15 all here.

16 What's the difference between their  
17 aircraft and civilian aircraft, their aircraft  
18 coming or cargo. Thank you for your time.

19  
20 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Lloyd Brown.

21  
22 000241 LLOYD BROWN: Thank you. My name is  
23 Lloyd Brown, Director of Wildlife Rescue in Dade  
24 County. I would like to address a few things that  
25 have been badly represented here.

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1 First off is that the environmentalists  
2 who oppose an airport are not from this area.  
3 There is not one family here that has more history  
4 in the county than mine. Except for the fourteen  
5 years that I spent in the Army as a Paratrooper,  
6 I've been in this county all my life.

7 During my time in the Army, I fought in  
8 two wars and in the Special Forces in the Middle  
9 East. Everybody here has the right to their  
10 opinions and their own safety. They're guaranteed  
11 that in the Constitution.

12 I heard that the Air Force Base is going  
13 to end this unemployment problem in Homestead.

14 The fact is that I've got a document right here  
15 from the Department of Labor that states that the  
16 highest unemployment in Homestead happened in the  
17 seven months prior to Hurricane Andrew with  
18 Homestead Air Force Base fully operational.

19 The unemployment in Homestead was 10.3  
20 percent. And as of October of 1999, four months  
21 ago, unemployment in the Homestead area was the  
22 lowest rate in the last ten years.

23 Tuesday night I heard someone say they  
24 would rather see an airplane crash into the  
25 Everglades than Downtown Hialeah. I agree that  
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1 would be better than the tragic loss of life. It  
2 would be tragic. We could get over the  
3 environmental damage and in a few years we would  
4 be able to tell where the crash site was. But if a  
5 plane crashed into Turkey Point, the crash site  
6 wouldn't be Homestead, it would be all of Dade  
7 County.

8 The SEIS said there was no environmental  
9 impact from this airport. Well, a few years ago  
10 they said the same thing about putting an air  
11 terminal in Alaska. Before that, they said it  
12 would be good to put a nuclear power plant on  
13 Three-Mile Island.

14 Myself and my organization, Wildlife  
15 Rescue, support the multi-use project as proposed  
16 by the Collier-Hoover foundation. Thank you.

17  
18 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next is Carl  
19 McKenny.

20  
21 000242 CARL MCKENNY: First, let me thank the  
22 Air Force and the FAA for providing an opportunity  
23 to speak and commend you on the spirit and the  
24 manner in which the hearings have been conducted.

25 My name is Carl McKenny. I'm a professor  
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1 at the University of Miami and a Dade County  
2 resident for fifty-three years. Details of my  
3 qualifications will be included in a more  
4 extensive written submission. Because of time  
5 limitations, I'm using a prepared document.

6 In support of the regional airport plan,  
7 aside from any other aspects, three factors are  
8 evident and unchallenged.

9 First, in twenty years, regardless of new  
10 concourses, parking garages or control towers,  
11 both Miami and Hollywood/Fort Lauderdale  
12 International Airports will be at operational  
13 capacity.

14 Second, included in that, Monroe County,  
15 regardless of growth, will remain with a small  
16 commercial facility at Marathon and a little  
17 larger one at Key West. No suitable location in  
18 Broward, Dade County or Monroe County is available  
19 for an additional airport without severe and  
20 unacceptable ecological impact and potential  
21 damage.

22 Third, the property has existed as an  
23 airport for sixty-five years and has been the home  
24 at one time of B47s and B52 heavy jet bombers.

25 Given these factors, it seems to me that  
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1 to deliberately destroy an existing facility which  
2 would cost millions, if not hundreds of billions  
3 of dollars to replace, where there is a  
4 demonstrated need and no viable alternative,  
5 constitutes an ecological act that balances or  
6 exceeds its opposition.

7 I'm uncomfortable to find myself in  
8 disagreement with such fine world-wide  
9 organizations as the Sierra Club and the Audubon  
10 Society. I understand and empathize with their  
11 commendable passion in this matter, but I believe  
12 the better force is to work for greater  
13 environmental protection to enhance limitations  
14 and requirements in the transfer documents to  
15 Miami-Dade County.

16 I have five areas of concern that I will  
17 address in a detailed submission. First, I think  
18 more attention needs to be given to water run-off.  
19 We've had bad experiences over the years in Miami  
20 International in this regard and Biscayne Bay is  
21 pretty close. I don't think enough attention has  
22 been addressed to that.

23 Second, I think implementation of greater  
24 flight pattern restriction consistent with  
25 aviation safety are appropriate.

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1 Third, and more importantly, because of
2 the inevitable pressures for commercial build-up
3 on airport periphery, we need to seek requirements
4 to be enforced and engaged. Thank you, very much.

6 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Francisco
7 Fernandez.

9 000243 FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ: Thank you. My name
10 is Francisco Fernandez and I need a translator.

11 (Through Juan E. Gandara, Sr.
12 professional interpreter)

13 I come here on behalf of Cutler Ridge,
14 Naranja, Ferrine, Florida City and Homestead and
15 others areas.

16 All of us know that after Andrew, our
17 economy went down to the lowest point so that our
18 population has to go to work in Miami and Hialeah.
19 We don't know why we have to wait for eight years
20 for this situation to be resolved.

21 We all love animals and we all love the
22 environment, but the human race is also part of
23 it. We believe that Homestead Air Force base can
24 help to resolve all of the problems that we have
25 in that particular area.

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1 We hope that God will illuminate the
2 minds of the people who oppose this and
3 they will think about the people of the
4 Homestead area and of the future of the Homestead
5 area. Thank you.

7 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Eugene Scott.

9 000244 EUGENE SCOTT: Good afternoon. I'm a
10 resident of Dade County since 1945. I retired
11 from Environmental Resource Management in 1992. I
12 was also an environmental engineer in the Miami
13 International Airport for eight years.

14 So my concerns as a human factor concern
15 is the pollution involvement in an airport. If you
16 take the City of Hialeah and Miami Springs, the
17 ground is so contaminated that the present water
18 plant, they had one of the largest installations
19 in the country and I think in the world of ground
20 water that's being produced in those two water
21 plants. And this had nothing to do with the
22 airport. The airport had its own pollution
23 extending into 36th Street and around the area,
24 not that far from the Miami Springs Golf Course.

25 So this was from the airport that caused
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1 this pollution. You can probably control what is
2 in the airport maybe, but not really on the
3 outside. When I left in 1992, they were pumping
4 one million gallons of jet fuel from the Miami
5 International Airport, three hundred and
6 sixty-five million gallons of gas a year. You
7 figure one percent of this if it was lost, what is
8 that, three million six hundred gallons a year.

9 When I was there for the eight years, we
10 recovered from the ground over a half million
11 gallons and we thought that was wonderful. And
12 they had all of the monitoring valves and what
13 have you. You have giant fuel tanks

14 Our mangroves and now we have national
15 parks, we never had before. All of these are
16 potentials. I feel that we have Tamiami Airport
17 and Opa-locka Airport and so the commuter airlines
18 with the smaller planes could use these airports
19 and cargo planes could use Miami International
20 Airport.

21 But my concern is the human factor. And
22 no matter with all the environmental laws
23 involved, I found hydraulic fuel in monitoring
24 valves at Miami International Airport. I'll leave
25 it at that.

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1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Janet Harper.
2 Lawrence Ress.

4 000245 LAWRENCE RESS: Ladies and gentlemen, my
5 name is Lawrence Ress. My question is, what about
6 Opa-locka Airport. You have Gratigny Expressway to
7 the south, directly to the south, you have 836 to
8 the west and north within a mile, you have I-95
9 and the Florida Turnpike within three or four
10 miles distance.

11 An area that needs development is the
12 Northwest Dade County area. It has a high
13 unemployment rate, much higher than Homestead.
14 There is a need for community pride. I think we
15 have a moral obligation to help that segment of
16 the community.

17 Those who live in the Opa-locka region
18 need help. Redevelopment should be taking place
19 in Opa-locka instead of Homestead. Most of the
20 infrastructure is there.

21 We should not destroy the natural
22 integrity of South Dade with an airport in pursuit
23 of the dollar. In my opinion, the region of land
24 around Homestead is already rural or close enough
25 to it, so a conversion back to the natural state

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1 would be easier.

2           If the people of Homestead are in such

3 dire straits, let them migrate north to Dade

4 County where they can help and assist Opa-locka in

5 development. There should be a partnership of

6 some sort in the operations of Opa-locka Airport.

7 I would hate to see this not thought of because of

8 ethnic make-up.

9           The developer is in such a rush to build

10 because they're afraid if the people really

11 understand what's happening, the project will be

12 aborted. This whole project stinks of backroom

13 politics.

14           People are concerned about jobs. The

15 developer cares little about future generations.

16 Mixed-Use is something that destroys the natural

17 area. I love to play golf, but we need another

18 golf course like we need a hole in the head.

19

20           JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker is

21 Roberta A. Fellabam.

22

23 000246 ROBERTA A. FELLABAM: I share the

24 concerns for the two national parks which are

25 known worldwide and for the congestion and noise

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1 in the environment. I also share the concerns

2 about keeping pollution out of Biscayne Bay. I'm

3 not sure that we can do that well enough to avoid

4 serious harm to the bay even if we are complying.

5           However, I'm even more concerned over the

6 process of the contract for this airport without

7 economic studies to determine optimum use of this

8 property, economic growth and environmental

9 protection.

10           As far as I know, there were no economic

11 studies done prior to awarding the contract;

12 therefore, we don't know if this airport is really

13 the optimum use for this property as far as

14 providing jobs, as far as providing economic

15 growth and as far as protecting the environment.

16 And in addition, as far as I know, the county did

17 not follow the process which would require for

18 everything before awarding this contract. And I

19 think the Federal Government should be concerned

20 about these issues before turning over this air

21 base for any specific use. If the SEIS had been

22 done prior to awarding the contract, we probably

23 wouldn't be here today. Thank you.

24

25           JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Rosalie E.

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1 Leposky.

2

3 000247 ROSALIE LEPOSKY: I'm Rosalie Leposky and

4 I've lived in Coconut Grove and have been here for

5 quite a long time. I consider myself a supporter

6 of conservation issues and I support the

7 Miami-Dade County Airport.

8           There are far worse locations it could be

9 considered for an airport. For fifty years, it's

10 been in use as an Air Force base and I suspect

11 with continued care, there is no reason not to

12 continue to use it as an airport.

13           The only possible area of concern to me

14 is related to the continued rising sea levels. A

15 quick glance of the Environmental Impact

16 Statement, it does not mention that.

17

18           JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Please, out with

19 the phone. Do you want to repeat it.

20

21           ROSALIE LEPOSKY: The animals and bird

22 life will adjust to the noise coming from the

23 airport. The only possible area of concern to me

24 is related to aviation use of the space and rising

25 sea levels.

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1           A quick glance of the Supplemental

2 Environmental Impact statement does not mention

3 high tide. Any long-time development of this land

4 needs to consider these factors because of the

5 slow but steady rising tides and the need in the

6 near future. I will give you a copy of an article

7 I wrote on the subject. Thank you for considering

8 my thoughts.

9           JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: It will be

10 attached to the record. Gary Bremen.

11

12 000248 GARY BREMEN: While I was trying to

13 decide what I wanted to say, I ran through many

14 alternatives. I thought of the impact of the

15 proposed international airport, what impact would

16 that have on my personal life and the immediate

17 neighborhood.

18           I thought about the errors that I found

19 reading through the SEIS, for example, with

20 reference to the Redlands, the noise and visual

21 impact. I wondered how accurate it is. I thought

22 about addressing that so many outsiders were

23 involved in this process. I was born and reared

24 right here in Dade County. How dare they come and

25 presume to know what is best for my backyard. But

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1 that's a moot point.

2 It's not as many would have you believe,  
3 just a local issue. The treasures that we have  
4 are national treasures and all should have their  
5 say.

6 I, too, have experienced dolphins jumping  
7 in the water. I have witnessed pelicans soaring  
8 overhead. I have seen the clear waters of  
9 Biscayne Bay. I have felt the power of nature in  
10 the mist of the bay caught in a storm.

11 The alternatives are not expected to  
12 provide as many jobs, but given the fact that we  
13 really know so little how these national systems  
14 operate, we know so little about how the  
15 operations impact these systems, I believe that we  
16 need to do everything in our power to minimize  
17 even small impacts to the environment.

18 We need to protect our national treasure  
19 of Biscayne Bay and the Everglades with the  
20 Collier-Hoover alternative

21  
22 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Mary Castellanos.

23  
24 000249 MARY CASTELLANOS: Good afternoon, my  
25 name is Mary Castellanos and I'm a life-long  
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1 resident of Miami-Dade County and a Christian  
2 minister with a deep love of the Everglades.

3 I would like to first off thank the Air  
4 Force for its good stewardship of the Homestead  
5 area for all of these many years.

6 Now, as you know, the South Florida area  
7 has experienced incredible growth in the last  
8 thirty years, resulting in traffic gridlock,  
9 crowded schools and a high-stressed environment.

10 I find that the Everglades and Biscayne  
11 National Park are just about the only places where  
12 I can go to find peace and tranquility and to  
13 restore my soul.

14 In two decades of bird watching and  
15 snorkling, I have seen a great deterioration of  
16 these two pleasures both in terms of damage to the  
17 coral reef and a substantial decrease in the bird  
18 population.

19 The report claims that an additional  
20 airport in Homestead will not do what it terms an  
21 unacceptable damage to the environment. I'm here  
22 to tell you passionately and unequivocally that at  
23 this stage of the deterioration, there is no such  
24 thing as an acceptable level of further insult to  
25 these fragile ecosystems. Urgent remedial action  
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1 is needed, not further damage to our precious  
2 environment.

3 Finally, I would like to point out that  
4 everywhere in this country where the false battle  
5 lines have been drawn between jobs and  
6 preservation, that when sanity has dictated that  
7 creation be preserved, jobs have also won out.

8 This false economy needs to be  
9 challenged. The airport is not the only source of  
10 jobs. Tourism is the number one business in  
11 Florida. Tourists are not going to come to dive  
12 amid dead coral or to fish with jets flying over  
13 their heads. We have a sacred responsibility to  
14 preserve this glorious environment.

15 In the name of my grandchildren and your  
16 grandchildren, I ask you to say no to the airport.  
17 Save the Everglades and Biscayne Bay. Let's make  
18 it a win-win situation for both the birds and the  
19 people of Naranja. Let's find a better  
20 alternative that will save the people and the  
21 parks. Thank you.

22  
23 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Clemente  
24 Rodriguez.

25  
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1 000250 CLEMENTE RODRIGUEZ: Colonel McShane,  
2 ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. My name is  
3 Clemente Rodriguez and I've lived in Miami-Dade  
4 County all my life.

5 I have fished in Biscayne Bay most of my  
6 life. I am opposed to the commercial airport for  
7 two reasons. First, I do not want to hear or see  
8 a constant barrage of commercial airplanes  
9 overhead while recreating in Biscayne Bay.

10 It's bad enough that when hunting or  
11 hiking in the Big Cypress National Preserve, I  
12 have to see and hear commercial airliners  
13 constantly doing takes-offs and circling overhead  
14 and landing at the Jetport.

15 Number two, with gross mismanagement  
16 going on at Miami International Airport, as  
17 outlined in the Miami Herald's series of articles  
18 recently, it's a little wonder that politicians  
19 are salivating for the opportunity of another gold  
20 mine. In fact, if I had my way, I wouldn't let  
21 any of the politicians manage a restroom, let  
22 alone another airport.

23 I support the Collier redevelopment plan  
24 for three reasons. Number one, it is  
25 environmentally friendly. Number two, it would  
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1 also provide the much-needed jobs in Homestead.  
 2 And last, but not least, it would allow us to  
 3 obtain the oil and mineral rights in the Big  
 4 Cypress National Preserve and limit oil  
 5 exploration.

6 If facilities are truly needed, we can  
 7 expand the facility at Opa-locka. I understand  
 8 Opa-locka has an awful lot of excess land. I got  
 9 the suggestion from a county employee as a matter  
 10 of fact.

11 If not, put the airport in Broward  
 12 county. Let Broward have the noise and pollution  
 13 threats to the environment. Thank you.

14 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Evelio Medina.

15 000251 EVELIO MEDINA: My name is Evelio Medina.  
 16 I woke up and I said what am I going to talk  
 17 about. I left my office today and saw the picture  
 18 that I have in my mind of the Air Force or Army  
 19 people, that the day after Andrew, because they  
 20 didn't speak Spanish to deliver the food, the  
 21 migrant workers left because they were scared and  
 22 came back and picked up the food.

23 I'm very in tune growing up in The Keys

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1 and know all of that area. We talk about the  
 2 greedy and the bad developer. But then we see the  
 3 beautiful Collier-Hoover foundation. They talk  
 4 about the environment. Ladies and gentlemen, I  
 5 tell you there is room for the Hoover and Collier  
 6 plans.

7 All of land down there, we can turn into  
 8 a beautiful economy for our tourists who come to  
 9 this town. There is a gentleman here who sells  
 10 furniture. Thank God, this lady, the older lady,  
 11 Thank God we don't have a society that a mother  
 12 can't speak.

13 The gentleman that eight years ago didn't  
 14 speak when he was checking all of that dirty  
 15 contamination, why didn't he talk about that eight  
 16 years ago. The taxpayers were paying him and now  
 17 pays his pension. He talks about it eight years  
 18 later.

19 So what I'm getting at is very simple,  
 20 the bottom line here is it's wrong, it's  
 21 unadulterated what they are going to do to Dade  
 22 County. Not only Dade County, but the whole area

23 And ladies and gentlemen, we should also  
 24 live for the future of ourselves. We should also  
 25 understand that we need prosperity in a way that

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1 birds and frogs can live also. You have to  
 2 understand, ladies and gentlemen, we need  
 3 something for that area. They say there is no  
 4 more room and Homestead is the only viable place.  
 5 So if it's a viable situation, let's do it right,  
 6 let them go to Broward County.

7 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Sergio Gomez.

8 000252 SERGIO GOMEZ: Thank you, very much.  
 9 Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Sergio Gomez.  
 10 I'm an engineer by trade. I was a member of the  
 11 Armed Forces for seven years. I was a member of  
 12 the Navy and I'm a member of the U.S. Naval Civil  
 13 Engineers, which is related to the same branch as  
 14 the Colonel is.

15 I believe that these issues are going to  
 16 be resolved. The issues of Homestead Air Force  
 17 Base have been properly addressed and I believe  
 18 this airport is needed for this county.

19 Let me tell you what is happening now.  
 20 There's a lot of competition as to trade that is  
 21 coming into Florida. And right now, Jacksonville,  
 22 Orlando and Tampa are competing to get that trade  
 23 from Latin America. If we do not prepare

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1 ourselves to be ready for that trade, we are going  
 2 to lose it and we are going to lose jobs.

3 We do need an airport and that airport is  
 4 required for the big planes that carry the cargo.  
 5 I have been inside of that base for many years and  
 6 I know that the runway is built to hold 747s, that  
 7 they used to hold the C-131s and the C-5s or the  
 8 G-5s.

9 In any case, I also believe that this  
 10 airport next to the water brings better safety for  
 11 the coming of airplanes. And in addition to that,  
 12 this airport is going to develop the economy. I  
 13 buy from Homestead businesses and they need the  
 14 jobs and require jobs. I also know the area south  
 15 of the base, some areas that are commercial.

16 And if this airport is not developed  
 17 correctly, I believe the environment issue is a  
 18 legitimate issue. I, myself, enjoy the Everglades  
 19 and enjoy Biscayne Bay. I use the marina every  
 20 day -- not every day, but every week. I go out on  
 21 my boat and I enjoy it. And I would support all  
 22 of the environmental controls and I would be  
 23 against any politician who would not use those  
 24 environmental controls.

25 Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, I do  
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# COMMENTS

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1 believe that we need to support this issue. The  
2 Collier people are coming in with something that I  
3 don't know that it can be developed. I have seen  
4 some of these things. I don't believe they can be  
5 properly developed. So therefore let's take care  
6 of this issue properly. Thank you.

7  
8 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Adrian Kates.  
9 Steve Reneger. Paul Haralson.

10  
11 000253 PAUL HARALSON: My big concern is that we  
12 have a clear need for another airport. And in the  
13 future, this airport is going to assist in  
14 alleviating a lot of congestion and traffic  
15 problems we're already starting to experience.

16 And anyone who lives here knows that we  
17 have been, as a community, somewhat short-sighted  
18 in terms of developing our infrastructure. We  
19 have to look at the recent growth of the city,  
20 that it is almost impossible if you try too late  
21 to build an infrastructure.

22 Our traffic gets worse and yet we don't  
23 build expressways. We don't build public  
24 transportation. Now we are going to have a  
25 problem with airport traffic. We know it's  
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1 coming.

2 We have a wonderful asset down in South  
3 Dade, a beautiful runway already in place. Why  
4 should we turn that down. It's being offered to  
5 the citizens of Dade County.

6 We shouldn't be short-sighted. If there  
7 were a good reason, a good environmental reason,  
8 then maybe I would agree. We already have  
9 extensive research showing that the environment  
10 isn't adversely affected.

11 And frankly, I think many of us who are  
12 here today either live or work within five miles  
13 of Miami International Airport. If I thought it  
14 was detrimental, I wouldn't live with my family  
15 within five miles of it.

16 Why should we have more facilities for  
17 alligators and birds. The Everglades are around  
18 that area. We should do for our own families, the  
19 people living and working around the airport.

20 We can have another airport and think  
21 toward the future. It's an asset that Dade County  
22 will have and we should take it if we can get it.  
23 And let's not let these environmental groups hurt  
24 our future. Thank you.

25  
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1 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: I've run through  
2 all of the cards I received except for one that  
3 was just handed to me.

4 What I propose to do at this time is go  
5 back and call the names of those that we skipped  
6 over earlier and see if they are here now.

7 State Representative Casiro Herrero.  
8 Afraid not. Mario Diaz. Not here. Mildred  
9 Terrill. Not here. Greg Ballinger.

10  
11 000254 GREG BALLINGER: My name is Greg  
12 Ballinger. I'm a professor of biology at the  
13 University of Miami. I have a masters in  
14 sociology and I teach courses at Miami-Dade  
15 Community College. I'm basically here as myself.

16 I would like to first address a couple of  
17 issues in the SEIS itself. One is the data on the  
18 sound impact. The one thing that probably comes  
19 closest to measuring the impact that I relate to  
20 is time. It represents the eastern edges of  
21 Biscayne National Park one to two hours per day.  
22 Well, that doesn't sound too bad. But I don't  
23 perceive time over a twenty-four hour period.  
24 Like everybody else, I perceive it moment to  
25 moment.

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1 If I go out and feed my birds or water my  
2 yard for ten minutes an hour and go back in the  
3 house, the birds will come back. If I go out  
4 every three minutes, I'm going to scare away the  
5 birds. What I think would be a more appropriate  
6 way of presenting this information is the  
7 frequency of disturbance, how often does the  
8 disturbance occur.

9 For example, two hours out of every  
10 twenty-four, I've got to tell you the airport is  
11 going to be running twenty-four hours. It's more  
12 than one minute out of every twelve minutes there  
13 will be an interruption. I think in terms of the  
14 animals, they're going to respond more to the  
15 frequency than to the total time over a  
16 twenty-four hour period.

17 Another issue I had with the report was  
18 the nitrogen. One of my problems is, all I can  
19 rely on right now is the summary. It seems in  
20 conflict with itself. In one paragraph it says  
21 there will be twenty-three percent more nitrogen  
22 from the air. But then in the biological  
23 resources, it says storm water discharge will  
24 occur, attributing to a high percent. Somewhere

25 else, it talks about increase in the ammonia by  
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1 thirteen percent. Ammonia and nitrogen oxide or  
 2 both.

3 I know if I had fertilizers in my yard,  
 4 if I go too far, they would kill. I would like to  
 5 see some verification of what is going on here  
 6 with nitrogen. It talks about less than one  
 7 percent of county emissions. That, to me, makes  
 8 sense in a mediation document, an affirmative  
 9 document. Who cares about what percents.

10 And the other issue of one percent county  
 11 emissions is that the air quality or the earth  
 12 quality in different parts of the county, north of  
 13 Biscayne Bay is biologically much different than  
 14 the southern end of Biscayne Bay. Thank you

15

16 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Janet Parker. Is  
 17 she here now. Apparently not. Marian  
 18 Oppenheimer.

19

20 000255 MARIAN OPPENHEIMER: My name is Marian  
 21 Oppenheimer. I live on Miami Beach. I've lived  
 22 here for quite a while, not as long as many. I'm  
 23 here to take a completely different course, which  
 24 is the course of no-action.

25 Not only am I against more development in

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1 that area, I would like to see the public funds  
 2 being used to return the Everglades to its  
 3 pristine state. Consider water clarity and the  
 4 cleanliness issue from the construction that they  
 5 created over the past hundred years from a  
 6 military system that's in the Everglades.

7 I say no airport, no dual use, no action.  
 8 Take that airport base that's there and replant  
 9 plant species where the old runways were. Thank  
 10 you.

11

12 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: We have finished  
 13 with all of those who indicated they wanted to  
 14 speak at the hearing. Has anyone else decided  
 15 that you wish to make comments now for the record.  
 16 I see one individual over there. Come up and  
 17 state your name.

18

19 000256 DAVID BALLENTINE: My name is David  
 20 Ballentine. I'm been here for forty-seven years.  
 21 I've seen this town go from a small city to a big  
 22 metropolis. Our elected officials seem to be  
 23 building more and more and more dead-end streets  
 24 because it's caused more pollution, more expenses  
 25 and taxes go up. Moreover, it's going to take us

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1 twenty years to build out what we've got now, as  
 2 far as infrastructure and catch up with the  
 3 building.

4 Airports are inherently polluters. There  
 5 is no way that you can get around that. They're  
 6 going to pollute the air and water and create  
 7 noise pollution. If somebody says that it's not  
 8 going to cause pollution, they're lying.

9 The Air Force Base down there is highly  
 10 polluted. They've got a lot of field dumps down  
 11 there that need to be cleaned up and need to be  
 12 put back into a much more pristine condition and  
 13 developed appropriately to save the area between  
 14 the national parks and the air base down there.

15 An airport is not a feasible operation  
 16 between the parks because of all of the pollution  
 17 it's going to cause. I hope we can find something  
 18 that is more suitable for that area and maybe move  
 19 this whole operation to Opa-locka where they do  
 20 have infrastructure in place.

21

22 JUDGE COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you, very  
 23 much. Has anybody else decided you want to speak  
 24 today. I don't see anybody.

25 I want to thank everyone for your

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1 comments and for participating in this session of  
 2 the public hearings. Your comments will be  
 3 extremely helpful to the Air Force and other  
 4 agencies in preparing the Final SEIS.

5 As we close, I do want to remind you that  
 6 if you didn't comment today or you decide you have  
 7 more to say, please write your comments down and  
 8 leave them with the staff today or in the box on  
 9 the comment table or mail them in later. Just  
 10 make sure they are mailed by March 7th so they can  
 11 be addressed in the Final SEIS.

12 Thank you, again, for attending. This  
 13 hearing is adjourned at 2:45.

14

15 (The following private session was held:)

16

17 000257 JOSE MANUEL ALONSO: (Through Juan E.  
 18 Gandara, Sr., professional interpreter)

19 I'm seventy-two years old. I have been  
 20 in this country since 1966. When I came to this  
 21 beautiful country, this was a countryside. With  
 22 the contribution of us Cubans, we have made it  
 23 possible to have this city.

24 The Homestead base was always an airport.

25 The Miami International airport was very small.

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COMMENTS

1 And with our contribution and with the natural  
2 growth of this area, the airport has been growing  
3 more and more each day. I live in the northwest  
4 area and I'm within thirty blocks from the airport  
5 and we can't stand the situation as long as those  
6 cargo aircraft fly low in the morning, in the wee  
7 hours of the morning and the afternoon and the  
8 evening, too. It's very bad.

9 And everybody who has come to this  
10 country into exile looking for a better life for  
11 themselves, you know, the growth has increased  
12 tremendously and we can't even move around.

13 Moreover, when the Hurricane Andrew  
14 came and destroyed that entire area, of course it  
15 left them in a dire need of betterment. As a  
16 matter of fact, the Miami International Airport,  
17 they want to have a fourth runway. Where are they  
18 going to build it. They would have to close  
19 Northwest 36th Street.

20 So consequently, we need the relief  
21 airport to at least start helping with the cargo  
22 aircraft and this would help us all.

23 The environmentalists talk about  
24 crocodiles. They eat human beings. They are  
25 human crocodiles. My opinion is to go with the

1 airport because that is going to bring at least  
2 thirty-eight thousand jobs.

3  
4 (Thereupon, the Public Hearing was concluded)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF DADE

I, CAROLYN BURNS, Court Reporter,  
certify that I was authorized to and did  
stenographically report the above-entitled hearing  
and that the transcript is a true and complete  
record to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not a  
relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of  
the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of  
any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected  
with the action, nor am I financially interested  
in the action.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2000.

  
CAROLYN BURNS  
Court Reporter

**Transcript of  
Public Hearing**

**February 3, 2000  
5:30 p.m.–11:25 p.m.**

**Renaissance Ballroom  
5901 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami, Florida**

ORIGINAL

HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE  
 SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SCOPING MEETING  
 February 3, 2000  
 5:30 p.m. to 11:25 p.m.

-----  
 5901 S.W. 8th Street  
 Miami, Florida

APPEARANCES:

Colonel Michael McShane,  
 Chief Trial Judge, Air Force

Major Mike Chipley,  
 Representative of the Air Force

Anthony Rivas, Interpreter

1 THEREUPON:

2 The following private statements were  
 3 made:

4 000258 DAMARIE QUINTANA: My name is Damarie  
 5 Quintana. I'm a citizen of Miami-Dade County. I'm  
 6 going to try to be very brief in trying to make all  
 7 my comments.

8 I believe we need employment and we need  
 9 an airport in Miami-Dade. I feel these so-called  
 10 environmentalists are being hypocrites and they're  
 11 being backed up by the Collier/Hoover plan to knock  
 12 out the airport and make room for they offices,  
 13 parks and golf courses, which I don't see how that  
 14 can work here in Miami-Dade. We have enough golf  
 15 courses here.

16 I don't understand why the  
 17 environmentalists don't see and understand that the  
 18 study says that the airport won't harm the parks nor  
 19 the animals. What they are saying about the study  
 20 and our government? That's why I feel they really  
 21 don't care about the environment. They're being  
 22 paid. As to Secretary Bruise Babbitt, it has been  
 23 reported that behind the scenes politically he has  
 24 political connection to the Collier Family. How  
 25 convenient.

3

1 And as far as people living around the  
 2 airport, they won't be the first nor the last. I  
 3 know several people that live close to Miami  
 4 International Airport. Where do they expect to  
 5 build airports? To be built in the middle of the  
 6 desert?

7 Another subject that the  
 8 environmentalists bring up is that it is impossible  
 9 that local people are going to get all the 38,000  
 10 jobs they say they're offering the airport  
 11 developers. What they don't know is those are also  
 12 indirect jobs that will be throughout the community,  
 13 new businesses and new job openings besides the  
 14 airport.

15 Thank you.

16 000259 ROBERTO SALAS: My name is Roberto  
 17 Salas. As a resident of Miami-Dade County, I'm here  
 18 to support the Homestead Airport project.

19 From what I have read and the research I  
 20 have done about this project, I have come to the  
 21 conclusion that the environment is not going to be  
 22 damaged, instead, we are going to have more jobs,  
 23 more opportunity, and more choices to improve our  
 24 transportation.

25 Let's get together and nothing

4

1 selfishly, but instead, come together for the  
 2 betterment of all the people in our community and  
 3 support the Homestead Airport.

4 The decision to make it a commercial  
 5 airport will go a long way in making South Florida a  
 6 livable place for all.

7 Thank you.

8 000260 FRANCICA RODRIGUEZ: I am in agreement  
 9 with the development for the airport. I believe  
 10 it's the best for the community. In order to obtain  
 11 jobs and prosperity.

12 000360 SARA GOMEZ: I believe that the airport  
 13 is good because the opportunity for jobs are going  
 14 to be available because lack of jobs is what brings  
 15 delinquency and crime.

16 Above that, this is not only about the  
 17 airport itself, it is towards the development for  
 18 the community. People who live here have left for  
 19 Orlando and Tampa because of the lack of  
 20 opportunities here.

21 I believe that the environment with  
 22 birds and animals, whatever it is, has nothing to do  
 23 with our needs. We have lived together all of this  
 24 time, nothing has happened. I love animals. I have  
 25 two little pet dogs who are like my children.

# COMMENTS

5

1 Everything is good, the life of the little pets,  
2 children, family, and environment.

3 Thank you.

4 000261 GLADYS GARCIA: I'm in favor of the  
5 development of the airport in Homestead. I believe  
6 it's going to bring very good opportunity of  
7 employment in the area and it's going to bring some  
8 decongestion of the Miami Airport because it is  
9 saturated. And it's going to bring opportunity of  
10 work for the area of Homestead, and Homestead needs  
11 them badly.

12 That is all.

13 000262 ESTRELLA BATEMAN: My name Estrella  
14 Bateman and I reside at 2170 Southwest 122nd Court,  
15 Miami-Dade County, Florida.

16 I have come here today to express my  
17 support for the proposal of developing Homestead Air  
18 Force Base into a commercial airport. I think that  
19 a second airport is much needed, as presently Miami  
20 International Airport is very congested and this  
21 situation is going to get worse, not better. I  
22 believe a second airport will benefit the entire  
23 community, especially Homestead, which is in much  
24 need of assistance, and the devastation due to  
25 Hurricane Andrew.

6

1 A second airport will generate thousands  
2 of jobs for this community which will create great  
3 economic benefits and growth, and I think the SEIS  
4 study has confirmed the building of this airport is  
5 environmentally safe to our Everglades and Biscayne  
6 Bay, and I am very much in favor and support of  
7 this.

8 Thank you.

9 000263 CARL GOMEZ: My name is Carl Gomez. I'm  
10 a resident in Miami-Dade for 40 years, and I go in  
11 favor for the airport to be built in Homestead. We  
12 need the jobs in our community. Studies show that  
13 the airport won't harm the parks, or the Everglades.  
14 I don't see the Hoover Group can do any better than  
15 what they can do with the airport.

16 Thank you.

17 000264 GUSTAVO E. LANNES: I'm in favor of the  
18 development for the base for commercial airport  
19 because the airport was already constructed. The  
20 area was already taken care of, and also because the  
21 construction of the airport will have in place  
22 38,000 jobs, and many more indirectly or directly  
23 related to that.

24 In regards to the noise related directly  
25 to the animals, Homestead Air Force Base was there

7

1 for ten years at least, and they had the same or  
2 even more noise than before. Military aircrafts are  
3 noisier than commercial aircrafts, and I do believe  
4 that for the development of the community of South  
5 Florida the airport is good. And also because of  
6 the competition, as we say always that we're going  
7 to open the port of the Americas in Miami. Florida  
8 would be the only, and Miami for that matter, would  
9 be the only place which could say that they have  
10 both ports, commercial and civil airports.

11 I believe that is enough.

12 000265 ALEXANDRA MALINOVSKY: I just feel that  
13 the Air Force Base should be -- I'm in favor of the  
14 mixed redevelopment of the base development plan.

15 And I think that Dade County officials,  
16 you know, I am against the fact that they have not  
17 offered the development to outside contractors,  
18 basically for the commercial airport. I think that  
19 they have given, you know, favorite status to  
20 certain developers, and this is what I'm voting  
21 against.

22 I think that the county should look into  
23 using Opa-Locka as a commercial cargo airport, since  
24 that's already an existing facility, and I think we  
25 should look into protecting the environment as much

8

1 as possible.

2 Thank you.

3 000266 GORDON TRACY NANCE: A couple of points  
4 I want to make where I can speak is that a lot of  
5 people think that this area is very pristine and as  
6 a nature preserve it's beautiful, and I would just  
7 like to remind them that it's that way despite the  
8 fact that planes have been flying in and out of  
9 there for 40 years.

10 I first went to Homestead Air Force Base  
11 and landed a jet there myself in 1959 and I'm not  
12 aware how long the base was in use before then, but  
13 from 1959 on it's been mostly in constant use with  
14 thousands of take-offs and landings a year. So the  
15 area surrounding it has stayed pristine in spite of  
16 the fact that there's an airport there.

17 I notice that when I fly to New York or  
18 Boston that flying times listed in the airline  
19 schedules are 30 minutes longer than they used to  
20 be. That's not because the planes are slower, it's  
21 because the congestion on the ground requires  
22 another 30 minutes for planes to maneuver on and off  
23 the ground, and this time is only going to increase  
24 as time goes on, and the congestion is only going to  
25 build.

9

1 More important factor in needing a new  
 2 airport here is the safety factor. We had a DC-8  
 3 that took off from Miami International on the west  
 4 runway a few years ago, and it crashed, luckily with  
 5 only one fatality on the ground. But had we had the  
 6 easterly winds that normally prevail here that day,  
 7 the plane would have been taking off to the east and  
 8 would have crashed in a very populated area. And  
 9 the airlines take off and fly right over some  
 10 schools and even Jackson Memorial Hospital, and if  
 11 we have a tragedy in the future in this congested  
 12 area, it's going to be of major proportion. So the  
 13 more traffic we can shift to an isolated area, the  
 14 better we'll be.

15 I know that some opponents to this say  
 16 that it would be terrible to have a plane crash in  
 17 Biscayne Bay as far as the environment is concerned,  
 18 but that fails by comparison to what damage would be  
 19 done if it crashed in a concentrated area or a  
 20 congested area.

21 So that's all I wanted to say.

22 000267 MARTHA M. SEOANE: My name is Martha  
 23 Seoane, and I have lived in Miami-Dade County for 30  
 24 years, all my life actually. My address is 1421  
 25 Northwest 36th Avenue, which is just east of the

10

1 Miami International Airport and in alignment with  
 2 the runways and the flight patterns. So I've had  
 3 planes flying over my home and my neighborhood  
 4 constantly.

5 I can definitely say one becomes immune  
 6 to the airplane noise, it really just isn't a  
 7 problem nor a hazard and it has never created any  
 8 sort of health ailments in my family nor anybody in  
 9 my neighborhood, as other people may say otherwise.

10 I would also like to address how I feel  
 11 about the Collier project. The Collier Family has  
 12 never really been considered environmentally  
 13 concerned. They have just over two dozen oil  
 14 exploration permits to drill near the Big Cypress  
 15 National Preserve, which is just north of the  
 16 Everglades National Park, and this just took place  
 17 no later than 1997. So I don't believe that they  
 18 are very concerned about our environment. So I  
 19 don't think that they're going to really take care  
 20 of it.

21 Plus, if by disgrace to our community  
 22 the Collier Project is approved, there will still be  
 23 a military reserve base with 20,000 flights yearly.  
 24 So, in my opinion, the only logical solution is to  
 25 grant South Florida a supplemental airport for cargo

11

1 and commercial flights. The Miami International  
 2 Airport is in great need of some assistance.

3 000268 KARINA BECERRA: Hi, Karina Becerra.  
 4 And it's hard to, like, put a whole history of my  
 5 life and of the earth in three minutes, but I think  
 6 that there needs to be a shift in paradigm thinking,  
 7 like how there have been, you know, like throughout  
 8 history.

9 And a lot of people are not educated to  
 10 care about the environment. It's only that, it's  
 11 just ignorance, it's nothing else. It's not their  
 12 fault. It's actually everybody's fault. We need  
 13 to, like, educate the community to take care of the  
 14 environment, because we are connected to the  
 15 environment and whatever happens to the environment  
 16 is going to ultimately affect us.

17 And I don't understand how some people  
 18 don't know that, it's so strange and so weird to me,  
 19 but I just think an airport would incredibly, like,  
 20 damage the eco-system so close to a national park.

21 We don't value them right now because  
 22 life is so abundant, but it's not always going to be  
 23 like that, and I grew up in a country here, you  
 24 know, where nature was always such a big part of my  
 25 life, and it's not always going to be there, and we

12

1 have to think about our children to come. When they  
 2 live, they're not going to be able to enjoy it  
 3 because as of now resources are going down ever so  
 4 quickly.

5 So if it's a job problem, we need to  
 6 find a way. I don't have the alternative or  
 7 solution for it. I'm just voicing an opinion for  
 8 those who don't have a voice, which is eco-systems,  
 9 animals, nature in general.

10 That's it.

11 000269 ADOLFO HENRIQUES: I'm Adolfo Henriques.  
 12 I happen to be sitting right now on the Blue Ribbon  
 13 Task Force Committee for the Airport that was  
 14 appointed by the mayor. I've spent a great deal of  
 15 time looking at the issues that impact our existing  
 16 airport system here in Miami, and quite frankly,  
 17 first of all, I believe that the study that was done  
 18 supports the fact that the airport in South Dade at  
 19 the Homestead Air Force Base is totally compatible  
 20 with the eco-system; that it is not going to be an  
 21 ecological problem; that we certainly will need the  
 22 additional airport capacity as we go forward because  
 23 Miami International Airport will be maxed out in the  
 24 not too distant future and there are no other  
 25 compatible sites within Miami-Dade County to

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13

1 accommodate an additional airport facility, other  
2 than this one.

3 This will be a huge employment creator  
4 for the South Dade market that absolutely needs it  
5 at this point in time.

6 Thank you.

7 000270 MARIA PAPAIZIAN: My name is Maria  
8 Papazian. Good afternoon. I would like to make a  
9 comment first in English and then in Spanish.

10 I am here to express my opposition to  
11 the construction of the proposed commercial airport  
12 in the former Homestead Air Base. I'm concerned  
13 about the amount of air, land, and water pollution  
14 and sound pollution that the proposed commercial  
15 airport will represent. It is too much noise and it  
16 is too much for a sensitive and unique area.

17 Another concern that I have is it's in  
18 proximity to Turkey Point, and Biscayne National  
19 Parks. It represents too high of a risk to take  
20 with our environment and our health.

21 For these reasons I believe it is  
22 necessary to find alternatives to the development of  
23 a commercial airport, which threatens the peace and  
24 tranquility that our national parks offer. Simply  
25 the quality of our life will be deteriorated.

14

1 000271 REY MARTINEZ: My name is Rey Martinez.  
2 My office address is 7000 Southwest 97th Avenue,  
3 Suite 104, Miami, Florida 33173.

4 I'm here on behalf of the development  
5 for the Air Force Base being turned into a  
6 commercial airport. I think that we have heard  
7 enough from our mayors, our commissioners, state  
8 representatives who are the ones that actually  
9 voiced what the people want in the area. And I  
10 think they have all spoken, except for maybe one  
11 commissioner, that they are in favor of this plan.

12 The plan has gone through several  
13 scrutinies, SEIS, meaning the last one, which is the  
14 state of the art investigation that was done for the  
15 development of the commercial airport, the findings  
16 I think are very clear and concise in the sense that  
17 they are for the development. That is really the  
18 only rational way to develop the Homestead Base in  
19 the sense of being a commercial airport. That will  
20 give them the flexibility also to keep the runway  
21 for their private use either for the military or for  
22 the law enforcement agencies that will need to use  
23 it at any given time.

24 I think the fact that the SEIS report  
25 has stated, and that's what I base my decision on,

15

1 one of the reasons I base my decision on for the  
2 development, that is the most sensible thing to do  
3 with the base at this moment.

4 Of all the plans that have been put in  
5 place, this one is the one that will be better for  
6 the area. It creates the most jobs. The land stays  
7 in the public ownership of Miami-Dade County, and it  
8 will be leased to private investors to develop the  
9 base and other things such as industry, warehouses,  
10 shopping centers, office space, hotels, and the  
11 amount of money that it would generate to the area  
12 is what the people want.

13 The Collier/Hoover Plan basically puts  
14 the ownership of the land in private hands of the  
15 Collier Family, which is a multi-million dollar  
16 family, and what they're doing is they're swapping  
17 mineral oil rights, which would take billions of  
18 dollars by the county to be able to extract any oil  
19 from the national park, if any, because it's all  
20 speculative, and to place public owned land in the  
21 hands of a private family, I just don't see that.  
22 You're giving something for nothing. Those oil  
23 rights are totally worthless. It's like in  
24 California where they haven't gotten nothing out of  
25 it, and it happened in another state. I forgot right

16

1 now.

2 As far as the space craft thing, that's  
3 extremely speculative. There's no developer set for  
4 it. So the only thing that could happen at this  
5 moment, the only thing that can really happen in  
6 Homestead and Naranja Lakes for a commercial airport  
7 for the betterment and benefit of the people.

8 People that come from Monroe County to  
9 protest, the ones from Ocean Reef, the average house  
10 is worth 1.5 million dollars. Why don't they take  
11 their money and give it to the poor folks in Florida  
12 City, Naranja Lakes and Homestead?

13 That's it. Thank you.

14 000272 RALPH PUIG, JR.: You know, usually  
15 when there's something new happening in a city or in  
16 a county, there's always people that are for and  
17 against a project, and that's only normal. But  
18 looking at this project, the scope of it, the  
19 original intent of the project has always been an  
20 airport, and I'm for the project because there is so  
21 many opportunities that could be for the community,  
22 not only for professionals, but for the people,  
23 public in general.

24 There's a lot of issues that have to do  
25 with the environment, but I think those have been

1 addressed already. There's been studies showing  
2 that the impact of this airport as a commercial  
3 airport, the impact is minimum. It's just going to  
4 benefit everybody for the future generations of Dade  
5 County. It's going to make Homestead a major, and I  
6 quote, "major city."

7 What I see is a city that's going to be  
8 internationally known. It's going to relieve  
9 traffic flow going through the Miami Airport. It  
10 will create opportunity for the education, I believe  
11 so, because it's going to be a lot of money  
12 invested, the taxes and so forth that are going to  
13 be coming from this project. You'll have better  
14 schools. Definitely you'll have better roads,  
15 because they're going to have to be improved. It's  
16 just a great opportunity for the development of the  
17 whole county in itself, and for the State of  
18 Florida.

19 And I think that people are missing the  
20 point and the issue, bringing the issue of the  
21 environment, because that's one of the most  
22 important things, of course, the environment. And I  
23 think the group that is handling this, the people  
24 that are in favor of the project are very aware of  
25 that, and I just hope that this whole process pretty

1 soon comes to a conclusion, because it's been a long  
2 process and I think they've taken all the steps  
3 necessary to show and demonstrate, not only to the  
4 county, but to the public in general, that it is a  
5 group of people that do care about the environment,  
6 care about certain issues that the position has, and  
7 I just hope it gets approved. Everybody is going to  
8 be benefited from it, and it's just a great project.

9 Thank you.

10 000273 OTTO FERNANDEZ: My name is Otto  
11 Fernandez. I own a property - I just recently owned  
12 the property on 19940 Southwest 240th Street, and I  
13 have several crops which I plant and develop.

14 One of the reasons that I moved into the  
15 area was because of the solitude of the area. That  
16 will all be changed as result of the commercializing  
17 of the Homestead Base, which is only going to  
18 benefit all these people that have been here prior  
19 to me. The developers, the Latin Builders  
20 Developers Association, or whatever, and that they  
21 are going to, if you let them, they will pave  
22 Florida from the East Coast to the West Coast. I  
23 know that because I work for the postal service, and  
24 I deliver to the new developments, the new  
25 developments that they are undertaking now, and I

1 see that the quality of the property, not to mention  
2 the incapability of the new people that are moving  
3 to the area to pay the mortgages and you can tell  
4 that by the extreme amount of for sale signs. It  
5 will definitely benefit the people that work in  
6 construction, but in reality, it will benefit mostly  
7 the land developers who have no problem with paving  
8 Florida from the East Coast to the West Coast.

9 Now, I repeat, an airport development  
10 there, I happen to work next to Tamiami Airport, and  
11 the fall out from the flight-overs, which happens to  
12 be only, et cetera, et cetera, small planes damage  
13 the paint on the cars.

14 Now, if you have a commercial airport,  
15 such as the Miami Airport, half of that, the fallout  
16 of the flights is enough to pollute and destroy the  
17 eco-system and the Everglades and all that area, not  
18 to mention, we get our water from that area there,  
19 that will completely pollute. And who's going to  
20 pay for that? Well, down the road, somebody is  
21 going to pay for that.

22 I think this is all a gimmick from the  
23 dictator, Alex Penelas, that wants to control  
24 everything around here. I am very much opposed to  
25 his ubiquitous presence and he is now like a little

1 dictator, and he has the control of all these  
2 developers here who, just their own idea is to  
3 forget, destroy now. My farm goes down and that's  
4 all I have to say.

5 Thank you very much.

6 000274 BEATRIZ QUINTANA: My name Beatriz  
7 Quintana. I live in South Dade. I'm with the  
8 people that want to make the airport, because I  
9 think Dade County needs an airport. There's not  
10 enough jobs in Dade County. And I also have a  
11 business in Fort Lauderdale, which is hard, because  
12 I could, you know, if it was something in Homestead,  
13 I could not find a business in Homestead, it's very  
14 hard to do anything in Homestead.

15 Thank you.

16 000275 EDIE DRIEST: Hi. I'm glad to be here  
17 to be able to express my opinion. I hope it's  
18 heard.

19 I definitely don't want to see this Air  
20 Base become developed. I don't know why Fort  
21 Lauderdale just can't be utilized for the additional  
22 need for air traffic. This proposed airport is, as  
23 we know, next to a few national parks that cannot  
24 survive with the pollution that is caused by the  
25 airport, not to mention the noise, not to mention

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21

1 the human beings that are affected by this type of  
2 development as well.

3 Right now I live near downtown Miami  
4 under and air corridor, which is a miserable  
5 experience. Why do we have to keep bringing more of  
6 this in?

7 And the nuclear plant needs to be  
8 considered, obviously. I don't know if it's  
9 possible to make such a thing crash proof. So  
10 that's very close to the airport.

11 The marine life would be affected in a  
12 negative way. The water nearby would be affected.

13 There are alternatives I don't think  
14 we've looked at. One maybe is the Hoover  
15 development, and I think that's it. And I hope and  
16 pray that this is looked at very carefully and the  
17 quality of our life is examined.

18 000276 ROBERTO GARCIA: My name is Robert  
19 Garcia, and I live in the South Dade area, and the  
20 reason why I like this, to go through with this,  
21 number one, it relieves a lot of stress to the MIA  
22 airport traffic. It also gives liberty for 38,000  
23 people for jobs. Plus, the ability for our  
24 properties to go up, sales prices on our properties  
25 to go up.

22

1 Also, it helps people that want to  
2 travel not have to travel so far away to get to the  
3 airport.

4 Also, the economy is something that's  
5 going to be affected and at least the City of  
6 Homestead would once be recognized as a city in  
7 itself, rather than to be recognized as the City of  
8 Miami.

9 Thank you.

10 000277 SYLVIA GARCIA: Hi. I'm Sylvia Garcia,  
11 I own Capital Title. I'm an owner of a small  
12 business and I welcome the opportunity for not only  
13 38,000 jobs for workers down in Homestead or for the  
14 City of Miami, or South Florida alone, but I also  
15 welcome the opportunity for investors to have an  
16 opportunity for growth in South Florida.

17 We've become a mecca of all different  
18 kinds of investment opportunities for not only  
19 people who live here, but also for Florida  
20 nationals. I think not only for job investments,  
21 but I think for the growth and potential that South  
22 Florida has is a definite plus for this airport.

23 In addition, I think the congestion of  
24 MIA will alleviate this. It will alleviate most of  
25 the, I think, security problems that we have at MIA,

23

1 but it will also give an expansion or a different  
2 alternative as opposed to just MIA.

3 The opportunity for an additional  
4 airport here will give Miami a better outlook for  
5 visitors, as well as people that want to come and  
6 live here as opposed to leaving South Florida.

7 I think the best opportunity for South  
8 Florida will be to have an expansion of a better and  
9 attractive airport, and I think that will be a great  
10 solution and a great contribution to South Florida.  
11 So I really hope that this airport comes our way.  
12 It's something to look forward to the future. We're  
13 only getting bigger and better, and that will  
14 definitely make us a better city.

15 Thanks.

16 000278 PETER FISCHER: My name is Peter  
17 Fischer. I would like to make a comment.

18 I'm a long time South Florida resident.  
19 And I recently, three years ago, purchased property  
20 down in the Redlands area. I would like to say I'm  
21 opposed to the development of the Air Force Base as  
22 a commercial airport for three basic reasons.

23 One, I don't believe it's a  
24 comprehensive community development plan. I think  
25 it's more for the benefit of a few business people

24

1 rather than everyone else. I also think it's going  
2 to be detrimental to the community in that it's  
3 going to be a shifting the use away from what I  
4 think is desirable or a better uses, say from  
5 agriculture to industry.

6 I believe a lot of people in the  
7 community will not see the benefits. There will be  
8 exporter benefits or basically the problems  
9 associated with the development would be much  
10 greater than any benefit they'll see. For example,  
11 the other three regional airports are in less  
12 desirable areas. My.

13 Second reason is I think it's  
14 environmentally damaging. It's inconsistent with  
15 the use of the local environment. Obviously it's  
16 situated between two national parks. I'm sure there  
17 will be plenty of comments on that. I don't believe  
18 it's a benefit of the national parks.

19 Also, it's going to increase the  
20 pressure from development in the area, both  
21 commercial and residential. Obviously you have a  
22 limited amount of space left for natural areas in  
23 South Dade and I think those are more important than  
24 short-term economic benefits. So not only will we  
25 see more development, see decrease in quality of the

1 area.

2 The third reason I'm opposed to the

3 airport is I think that we could do a better use of

4 the area. I think it would be better to put all

5 plans on hold and develop a great comprehensive

6 region-wide redevelopment plan that will benefit all

7 members of the community rather than spearhead and

8 push this through as a short-term economic gain for

9 a few.

10 000279 ROBERT CHISHOLM: My name is Robert

11 Chisholm, architect. My office is at 7254 Southwest

12 48th Street, Miami, Florida.

13 By education and profession I'm an

14 architect and urban planner, urban designer and I

15 practice both on a full-time basis in Miami and in

16 other areas of the country and the world.

17 I am in favor of the HABDI proposal for

18 the redevelopment of the base. I think that any

19 community must continue its economic enhancement

20 growth in order to supply its residents with the

21 necessary economic and social opportunities and

22 development.

23 We have the technology in the United

24 States and in the world to be able to coexist with

25 the natural environment and the natural habitat and

1 all species along with mankind.

2 If it was in our hearts and intentions

3 to develop this project in the proper and necessary

4 manner, we have the capability to do so

5 technologically and professionally.

6 A development of this nature at the

7 former Homestead Air Force Base would be beneficial

8 to the area, would be a benefit to Miami

9 International Airport as a relief airport, and it

10 would be extremely beneficial economically for the

11 residents of South Dade, which is our next

12 opportunity area for growth, short of higher density

13 development in the UBD of Dade County.

14 Current and future development of

15 aircraft equipment, it's coming into line that we'll

16 have reduced noise levels. That is part of the

17 future development in aircrafts, which is at hand.

18 And all the environmental concerns, again, can be

19 easily solved.

20 I have done projects in South Dade and

21 on the base, and I am familiar with the economic and

22 planning issues of the area, therefore, I recommend

23 the HABDI proposal.

24 Thank you.

25 000280 NANCY MORENO: My name is Nancy Moreno.

1 I've been a resident of Miami-Dade County since

2 1962. I am in favor of building the airport and

3 Homestead, because I remember the Air Force Base a

4 long time ago. I believe this new airport will

5 create a lot of jobs for unemployed people and will

6 enhance the City of Homestead immensely with all the

7 new businesses that are going to open around them.

8 I also heard that the Homestead branch

9 of the Baptist Hospital will be closing because it

10 has no business. With this airport it won't be able

11 to close because people will go there and also the

12 MIA, the Miami International Airport is very

13 congested, and the fares are very high. Every time

14 I fly I have to go to Fort Lauderdale because the

15 fares there are lower. If there's an airport in

16 Homestead, it will be closer to me and airlines with

17 lower fares will move there.

18 Also, I have lived 20 years across from

19 the Miami Airport where there's a lake with manatees

20 and birds all around it, and nothing has ever

21 happened to them. So I don't think that the

22 pollution issue and the environmental issue has

23 anything to do with it.

24 That's my opinion on this issue.

25 000281 STEVE HAGEN: My name is Steve Hagen.

1 I'm a businessman, I'm also an environmentalist. I

2 live in the takeoff pattern of MIA, and I do benefit

3 from having an airport close to me, because I'm

4 cargo, I use the cargo facility as an importer.

5 In one hand, I would love to have

6 traffic relieved from MIA and taken to some other

7 airport. However, in this instance, I believe that

8 would be a disastrous decision to be made.

9 I quote the last paragraph from the

10 Department of the Interior.

11 It says: "The Air Force's goal is to

12 dispose of this surplus property in a manner that

13 supports local community plans for economic

14 revitalization of South Florida and protects

15 Biscayne Bay and the nearby national parks."

16 Now, the key in this sentence, and I

17 assume that this was all very thoughtfully derived

18 at, is "local community", "to best preserve support

19 the community plans for the revitalization of South

20 Florida."

21 An airport is a regional type of

22 facility, therefore, and the location of it,

23 especially between two national parks would be

24 disastrous and not nice.

25 I fully support a mixed-use plan, as the

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1 Department of Interior has suggested.  
 2 000282 TERE GARCIA: There's one thing that  
 3 South Florida economy depends on and that is air  
 4 travel.  
 5 I am here on behalf of the Greater Miami  
 6 Chamber of Commerce Transportation Group. The  
 7 Chamber has supported on record the conveyance of  
 8 the Base to the County and to the airport, and it  
 9 has also approved the use of it as a reliever  
 10 military and passenger airport. This means to be  
 11 planned accordingly as to mitigate any negative  
 12 impacts that it may have, but we must remember that  
 13 historically this was a military airport.  
 14 This is the time to move ahead with  
 15 this, given the result of the EIS. We need the  
 16 jobs, and we need our aviation industry to continue  
 17 growing and providing for the county the type of  
 18 economic growth that it deserves.  
 19 000283 NICHOLAS ROBULOCK: What do we want  
 20 first? What is more important to us? The jobs that  
 21 are going to be provided by an airport, faster  
 22 transportation, more available transportation, or do  
 23 we want to have green grass? We don't even know who  
 24 gave it to us, it's much more precious than the  
 25 airport that we can build.

1 By building this airport, it's going to  
 2 destroy it. It's going to demolish it. It's going  
 3 to pollute it. And that forest is much more  
 4 important than an airport, much more important than  
 5 faster transportation, much more important than  
 6 providing jobs for people.  
 7 The silence of trees and the silence of  
 8 nature, the silence of animals, the silence of  
 9 nature is something we have to carry on to our kids.  
 10 We can't carry on airports. We can't carry on  
 11 polluted waters, polluted sewers. We need to  
 12 maintain our forests for our kids. We need to keep  
 13 the grass green, the water wet, clean.  
 14 Thank you.  
 15 000284 EILEEN SMITH: Please don't let our  
 16 children, the children of Florida, and the children  
 17 of the world grow up without an Everglades and  
 18 without a Biscayne Bay. Allow the next generation  
 19 and more to hear the call of the Osprey and the  
 20 grunt of the alligator and maybe even the roar of a  
 21 Florida panther, this will be music to their ears.  
 22 The deafening noise of one aircraft flight per  
 23 minute is no legacy to look at.  
 24 I believe we can have jobs and quality  
 25 of life. Please support the Collier plan. It was

1 once said the Everglades was a test and if we  
 2 passed, we get to keep the planet. Now, the airport  
 3 is a test, if we stop it, we pass, and we get to  
 4 keep the Everglades and more.  
 5 Margery Stoneman Douglas passed away  
 6 last year and she was the first lady of Florida and  
 7 of the Everglades. She fought this battle against  
 8 an airport.  
 9 Once again, let's win it again, in her  
 10 memory and for the future of her children.  
 11 Thank you.  
 12 THEREUPON:  
 13 The following public proceedings were  
 14 had:  
 15 COLONEL McSHANE: I do have a couple of  
 16 administrative announcements before we get started.  
 17 If you brought signs or banners into the  
 18 room, I would ask that you do not raise them up from  
 19 your seats. You will be blocking someone else's  
 20 view, and that will be appropriate. Don't do that.  
 21 One thing I've seen in the several  
 22 hearings we've had here, there are an awful lot of  
 23 you that have cell phones. They are very  
 24 distracting when they ring, so please turn the  
 25 ringers off and put them on vibrate or just turn the

1 phones off completely so that you do not disturb the  
 2 proceedings with your cell phones. If you're doing  
 3 that when we have speakers up here, I will ask you  
 4 to leave.  
 5 We do have the capability to translate  
 6 my comments and the briefing that Major Chipley will  
 7 give tonight into Spanish. If there is any interest  
 8 in having that done. Doing so, however, will take  
 9 away about 15 minutes from the public comment  
 10 period. We would be happy to do the translation, if  
 11 there is interest.  
 12 Could I have a show of hands if you are  
 13 interested in having the translation into Spanish?  
 14 I only see one hand, and somebody's  
 15 offered to translate for her. I think it's probably  
 16 best if we maximize the time available for the  
 17 comment period.  
 18 Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and  
 19 welcome to this public hearing on the draft  
 20 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the  
 21 disposal of portions of the former Homestead Air  
 22 Force Base.  
 23 I'm Colonel Mike McShane, and I'm the  
 24 Chief Trial Judge of the Air Force, stationed at  
 25 Bolling Air Force Base in Washington D.C.

1 My normal duties include presiding over  
 2 Air Force courts marshal, but this week I have been  
 3 made available to preside over this series of five  
 4 hearings which are being held in this area  
 5 concerning the disposal and subsequent reuse of  
 6 former Homestead Air Force Base property.

7 I have not been involved in the  
 8 development of any of the proposals that are being  
 9 considered. My job is to make sure that we have a  
 10 fair and orderly hearing.

11 Thank you for taking time from your busy  
 12 schedules to come here tonight for this public  
 13 hearing. If you are interested in doing so, I hope  
 14 you took the time to visit with the technical staff  
 15 prior to this portion of the hearing and to look at  
 16 the exhibits that are in the back and along the  
 17 side.

18 In preparing this draft Supplemental  
 19 Environmental Impact Statement, or draft SEIS as you  
 20 will hear us refer to it all night, it was the Air  
 21 Force's goal to understand the environmental  
 22 implications of deciding for what purpose and to  
 23 whom to convey surplus property at former Homestead  
 24 Air Force Base.

25 The draft SEIS examines reasonable ways

1 in which the property might be developed and used  
 2 and the reasonably foreseeable environmental  
 3 consequences of the alternatives.

4 At this time I would like to introduce  
 5 Major Mike Chipley of the Air Force Executive Issues  
 6 Team. He is an engineer by trade with a Ph.D in  
 7 civil engineering from the University of Colorado.

8 Major Chipley will discuss the proposed  
 9 action and alternatives and provide a short synopsis  
 10 of the reuse issues. Since the overall purpose of  
 11 these hearings is to obtain input from you on the  
 12 contents of the draft SEIS, the presentation will be  
 13 short.

14 Major Chipley?

15 MAJOR CHIPLEY: Thank you, Colonel  
 16 McShane. I too would like to extend my thanks for  
 17 all of you taking time to provide your comments on  
 18 the draft SEIS.

19 For the past several years we have been  
 20 engaged in the process of completing realignment and  
 21 reuse of the former Homestead Air Force Base as  
 22 required by the Defense Waste Closure and  
 23 Realignment Act.

24 The Air Force's primary goal in this  
 25 process is to transfer the property in a manner that

1 supports local plans for local revitalization for  
 2 South Florida and protects Biscayne Bay and the  
 3 nearby national parks. A disposal must also be  
 4 compatible with the continuing existing military and  
 5 law enforcement missions.

6 The Air Force and the Federal Aviation  
 7 Administration, or FAA, are the designated lead  
 8 agencies for the draft SEIS. The Air Force has a  
 9 decision-making responsibility for the transfer of  
 10 the property. The FAA has the decision-making  
 11 responsibilities for airport facilities.

12 There are three cooperating agencies,  
 13 one cooperating agency is the National Park Service,  
 14 because it manages Biscayne National Park and  
 15 Everglades National Park. Another cooperating  
 16 agency is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because  
 17 of its responsibilities to ensure threatened and  
 18 endangered species are adequately considered and  
 19 because of the proximity of the Crocodile Lake,  
 20 National Wildlife Refuge.

21 The third cooperating agency is the U.S.  
 22 Environmental Protection Agency because of its  
 23 regulatory responsibilities.

24 The contractor hired by the Air Force to  
 25 actually conduct the analysis is Science

1 Applications International Corporation or SAIC for  
 2 short. They have been supported by another  
 3 contractor, Landerman, Brown, which performed the  
 4 airport's planning and noise analysis.

5 I would like to take a couple of minutes  
 6 to update you on the SEIS process, and what has  
 7 occurred since the scoping period ended in July of  
 8 1998. More than 440 individuals, organizations, and  
 9 agencies provided written input during our 132-day  
 10 scoping period and 195 people spoke at our public  
 11 scoping meetings. The size and complexity of the  
 12 draft SEIS has grown substantially because of the  
 13 number and diverse nature of issues and because of  
 14 the many federal agencies, state and local  
 15 governments, private organizations, and concerned  
 16 citizens involved. Midway through the analysis two  
 17 mixed-use proposals were received which were  
 18 incorporated into the analysis.

19 We recognize that this has been a long  
 20 process for everyone. We want you to know that many  
 21 other communities have also struggled through the  
 22 base closure process. Some former bases have been  
 23 developed for aviation uses, others for non-aviation  
 24 uses. The success of redevelopment depends upon the  
 25 local community involvement and support.

COMMENTS

1 The draft SEIS examines a number of  
2 reuse alternatives for remaining surplus property at  
3 the former base. Ongoing reuse involving property  
4 that has already been transferred, like the Job Corp  
5 Center, the Dade County Homeless Trust, the regional  
6 park and other deeded properties would continue  
7 under any of the alternatives.

8 The alternatives underwent thorough and  
9 complex analysis of the environmental and economic  
10 impacts that could potentially occur as a result of  
11 redevelopment. 14 topics were used as the basis for  
12 the analysis. Public and agency concerns that were  
13 expressed at our scoping meetings identified  
14 important issues that helped focus our analysis.  
15 Those concerns have been incorporated throughout the  
16 draft SEIS.

17 When the reuse planning process was  
18 initiated for Homestead Air Force Base, Miami-Dade  
19 County was designated as a local reuse authority to  
20 develop a reuse plan for the former base. The  
21 county has proposed that the 1,632 acres of  
22 remaining surplus property at former Homestead Air  
23 Force Base be transferred to Miami-Dade County  
24 Aviation Department for development of a commercial  
25 airport. This is the proposed action addressed in

1 the draft SEIS.

2 The analysis of the proposed action  
3 included identifying and assessing new flight tracks  
4 that would be used at the commercial airport.  
5 Airport operations, in general, are  
6 characteristically different in commercial or  
7 residential land uses in the types and numbers of  
8 vehicles, equipment and people, and the resulting  
9 impacts on the environment. The main issues of the  
10 proposed action involve air pollution, storm water  
11 runoff, and noise levels.

12 Another alternative examined in the  
13 draft SEIS is a commercial space port. The main  
14 issues with the commercial space port alternative  
15 involve the uncertainties related to the licensing  
16 process, safety, and potential increases in noise.

17 Three approaches were examined for  
18 non-aviation use presented as the mixed-use  
19 alternative. Market driven development, the Collier  
20 Resources Company proposal, and the Hoover  
21 Environmental Group Plan. The mixed-use  
22 alternatives could create higher intensity of use in  
23 a shorter period of time, but may have less  
24 environmental effects on the national parks.

25 The draft SEIS also includes the

1 no-action alternative, which means the property  
2 continues to belong to the government and reverts to  
3 caretaker status.

4 Under each alternative the Air Force,  
5 the Florida International Guard, and Customs Service  
6 continue to use the runway for their current  
7 military and law enforcement missions.

8 The draft SEIS addresses each  
9 alternative in the context of future growth in South  
10 Florida and also takes into account potential  
11 cumulative impacts of other projects. It also  
12 includes some historical information where  
13 available.

14 Your views and comments on the draft  
15 SEIS will be important as we work toward completing  
16 the final SEIS. We are now about halfway through  
17 the 60-day public comment period. We scheduled  
18 these hearings to provide you an opportunity to  
19 review the draft SEIS and formulate comments you can  
20 give here today and also to provide some time after  
21 these hearings so that you can incorporate things  
22 that you might hear tonight into written comments.  
23 Whether you choose to comment today or to provide  
24 your comments in writing between now and March 7th,  
25 we look forward to receiving your inputs in

1 assisting us in completing the final document.

2 The final SEIS scheduled for completion  
3 in July, 2000 will include comments made at the  
4 public hearings or submitted in writing during the  
5 public comment period for the drafted SEIS, along  
6 with Air Force and FAA responses to your comments.

7 A decision on what action will be taken  
8 concerning the transfer of the disposal property  
9 will be made no earlier than 30 days after the  
10 publication of the final SEIS. We'll continue to  
11 distribute news releases and send news letters to  
12 those on our mailing list throughout the final  
13 course of the SEIS process. Anyone wishing to be  
14 added to the mailing list should complete an  
15 attendance card located in the foyer at the  
16 registration table and check the appropriate box on  
17 the card.

18 In summary, I would like to say that we  
19 do understand that this is a complicated and often  
20 frustrating process. Let me reiterate that neither  
21 the Air Force, nor the FAA proposes to directly  
22 develop the surplus property. The Air Force's goal  
23 is to transfer the land in a manner that supports  
24 local plans for economic revitalization and protects  
25 Biscayne Bay and the nearby national parks. A

1 disposal must also be compatible with continuing the  
2 existing military and law enforcement missions.

3 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you, Major  
4 Chipley.

5 Each of the proponents of an alternative  
6 was offered the opportunity to describe the proposal  
7 and speak about it. Miami-Dade County  
8 representatives have been given 10 minutes to speak  
9 about their proposal. You may also have noticed  
10 that some of the other proponents, although they  
11 elected not to give a presentation, have material  
12 available at tables at the back of the room.

13 I understand Mayor Penelas will start  
14 the Miami-Dade County presentation.

15 MAYOR PENELAS: Ladies and Gentlemen,  
16 good evening. Let me start off by thanking both  
17 you, Colonel McShane, and Major Chipley for the  
18 fashion in which you've conducted these hearings  
19 over the last few days. I think we all owe them a  
20 round of applause.

21 On behalf of Miami Dade County this  
22 evening I'm joined by our aviation director, Gary  
23 Dellapa, and Bill Johnson from the manager's office,  
24 and they will be saying a few words after I am done.

25 My testimony tonight, Ladies and

1 Gentlemen, and for the record, and folks on the  
2 issue of providing South Miami-Dade County with an  
3 environmentally balanced foundation for both growth  
4 and improved economic viability, and I strongly  
5 believe that both of these goals can be achieved  
6 through the redevelopment of the former Homestead  
7 Air Force Base as a limited commercial airport.

8 I cannot over emphasize the importance  
9 of this base property in meeting Miami Dade County's  
10 future aviation capacity needs. Miami International  
11 Airport is the only commercial service airport in  
12 Miami-Dade County. Even with a current addition of  
13 a fourth runway, Miami International Airport will  
14 fall far short of the demand of the commercial  
15 services capacity sometime between the year 2006 and  
16 2015.

17 This point was clearly confirmed in the  
18 recent Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement,  
19 and, as we all know, aviation facilities do not  
20 materialize over night. They are decades in  
21 planning, regulatory and implementation phases.

22 I would further add that a commercial  
23 airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base also  
24 meets the pressing economic needs of South  
25 Miami-Dade County. The airport use will provide far

1 more good jobs than any of the alternative uses,  
2 38,000 jobs and full build out in over one billion  
3 dollars in new earnings, as substantiated in the  
4 Supplement Environmental Impact Statement.

5 At the beginning of my remarks I spoke  
6 about balancing the needs of economic development  
7 with those of environmental protection. As mayor of  
8 Miami-Dade County, I want the record to be very  
9 clear that this project has my unwavering commitment  
10 to the development of Homestead Regional Airport in  
11 an environmentally safe manner. Over 27 mitigation  
12 plans and studies at a cost of over 8 million  
13 dollars have already been completed to ensure that  
14 Homestead Regional Airport is totally compatible  
15 with its environment.

16 It is important to know here that growth  
17 is projected to occur in the South Miami-Dade County  
18 area with or without reuse of the disposal property  
19 at the former Homestead Air Force Base, but we are  
20 prepared to deal with a growth in a responsible  
21 manner. In fact, the superintendent of Biscayne  
22 National Park has identified that wild resources,  
23 buffer land, and noise as the most serious potential  
24 impacts from outside the park. Here is our progress  
25 report on mitigating these impacts.

1 First, Miami-Dade County has committed  
2 to the concept of a buffer zone around this to  
3 minimize the impacts of secondary development  
4 supported by federal, state and regional  
5 governments. We will address this need head on.  
6 We'll also continue to hold the line on the urban  
7 development boundary the legislative initiative  
8 which I strongly support.

9 Thirdly, our storm water drainage system  
10 for the base will comply with the strict regulations  
11 set forth by the South Florida Water Management  
12 District.

13 Four, our noise mitigation and  
14 management plan will consider the date it develops  
15 in Biscayne National Park's sound-scape plan to  
16 further understand noise issues.

17 Fifth, a mitigation plan for military  
18 canals being developed, initiative I supported in  
19 several communications to the federal government.

20 Sixth, Miami-Dade County is committed to  
21 the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force  
22 Base as a single runway facility.

23 And, seven, my final pledge to you, is  
24 that Miami-Dade County will seriously consider  
25 returning 39 square miles of precious land and

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1 attended middle rights in the Big Cypress Preserve  
2 area to the Federal government.

3 As you all may know, that land is  
4 currently the site for the Dade Collier TMT  
5 airstrip. That site, if this proposal is approved,  
6 will be forever abandoned to close the hole in the  
7 donut if our proposal to develop Homestead Regional  
8 Airport in an environmentally sensitive manner is  
9 adopted by the federal government.

10 Thank you for your attention. At this  
11 time I would ask Gary Dellapa to continue Miami-Dade  
12 County's presentation.

13 Gary?

14 GARY DELLAPA: Thank you. I too would  
15 like to thank the panel for giving us the  
16 opportunity to relay our Department's  
17 recommendations regarding the development of the  
18 former Homestead Air Force Base. It's important for  
19 everyone to bear in mind that I'll be talking about  
20 capacity issues. And those are not issues that just  
21 affect South Dade or even Miami-Dade County, they  
22 affect all of South Florida.

23 Previous testimony you've heard from the  
24 mayor and other elected officials on what the  
25 position of reuse means, this should continue the

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1 prosperity of our region.

2 The current system of airport is taxed  
3 to the extreme of its limits and will prove unable  
4 to meet future market demands, unless augmented by  
5 new facilities.

6 On the rear here, actually to my left,  
7 the airport has a display with documents and  
8 graphics on future aviation demand and our capacity  
9 to meet that demand. It is imperative that you  
10 understand that our inability to meet market driven  
11 demands means loss of economic activity and serious  
12 impacts on our employment base and business  
13 community.

14 Many of you are aware of our efforts to  
15 accelerate the construction of a fourth runway at  
16 MIA. This project is the single most important  
17 element of the Airport Department's long range  
18 development program. However, this final  
19 incremental gain in MIA's capacity will not be able  
20 to meet the air traffic forecast far beyond the year  
21 2015.

22 Our primary strategy is to provide the  
23 facilities to meet both near and both long-term  
24 demands. The critical elements of this strategy is  
25 to preserve the flexibilities to be able to react to

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1 the future urban conditions that may be unforeseen  
2 today, such as a free Cuba, the growth of  
3 e-commerce, or the success of the Free Trade  
4 Agreement that the Americans have been simulating  
5 foreign commerce.

6 Miami-Dade's most limiting capacity  
7 constraint today is the number of full-service  
8 commercial carrier runways available on our airport  
9 system to safely manage an aircraft before it  
10 reaches to forecast levels.

11 MIA is quickly reaching saturation and  
12 it's at the point where no additional runway  
13 capacity can be provided. Already we are  
14 experiencing dislocation upon airport businesses due  
15 to space limitations caused by development of our  
16 new fourth runway.

17 Numerous efforts in the last three  
18 decades to identify new sites in South Florida for  
19 commercial aviation facilities have proven  
20 fruitless. There are no other sites. There isn't  
21 even another site.

22 Consequently, the most crucial issue  
23 confronting us today is the decision on the ultimate  
24 reuse of Homestead. That decision will affect  
25 whether or not this community will be able to

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1 accommodate the tremendous worldwide growth in  
2 aviation of this forecast. This is growth that we  
3 will be unable to meet with MIA and our other  
4 airports alone. For example, it was reported in the  
5 SEIS, Opa-Locka has fought with airspace  
6 environmental justice issues.

7 From an aviation point of view, the  
8 conclusion is inescapable. We need Homestead to  
9 meet all of our needs, for passengers, for  
10 maintenance, for military, law enforcement, cargo,  
11 and general aviation. However, the need for  
12 identifying long-term capacity demands will not come  
13 at the expense of environmental compatibility.  
14 Miami-Dade County is committed to ensuring that the  
15 plan and phase development of the commercial airport  
16 alternative is implemented in a environmentally  
17 compatible manner. Miami-Dade Aviation Department  
18 has a substantial track record of environmental  
19 responsibilities. We have spent over 170 million  
20 dollars since 1994 to address environmental issues.  
21 One of the main stays of our current 5 billion  
22 dollar construction program is maintaining the  
23 environmental quality of not only the airport but of  
24 the surrounding communities as well.

25 The airport is in full agreement with

1 the activity levels proposed in the SEIS. The  
 2 projected flight operations provide for future  
 3 demands. We believe that the aircraft fleet mix  
 4 described is the most compatible with a joint  
 5 civilian/military use of the airfield.

6 Advances in airplane and engine  
 7 technology will offset future noise created by  
 8 commercial operations, for example, things like the  
 9 mandatory conversion of the staging in engines,  
 10 which went into effect January 1st of this year and  
 11 the use of quieter regional jets.

12 We're in the crossroads of future of  
 13 aviation in South Florida. This is our only  
 14 opportunity to preserve a badly needed airport to  
 15 the regional aviation system and to continue to  
 16 allow this community's aviation industry to grow and  
 17 prosper.

18 Thank you.

19 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.

20 BILL JOHNSON: Good evening. my name is  
 21 Bill Johnson, the senior assistant to the county  
 22 manager, Merrett Stierheim. I appreciate the  
 23 opportunity to be with you this evening.

24 I have 30 seconds, and in that 30  
 25 seconds I want to say that the role of aviation

1 here, not just Miami-Dade, but in all of South  
 2 Florida is of incredible importance. I think  
 3 everyone in this room probably realizes that our  
 4 number one industry here in Miami-Dade County is  
 5 tourism. Over 10 million visitors visit our  
 6 community every single year, spending over 16  
 7 billion dollars.

8 I'd like you to know that 95 percent of  
 9 all of those visitors to Miami-Dade County come by  
 10 air. One-fifth of the entire work force here in  
 11 Miami-Dade County is employed directly or indirectly  
 12 through our aviation system.

13 The airport, therefore, obviously, is of  
 14 incredible importance to the economic wellbeing of  
 15 our community. It is, therefore, vital that we have  
 16 the opportunity to be able to continue to grow.  
 17 This additional air capacity at Homestead is  
 18 essential for the health of our community.

19 Thank you.

20 COLONEL McSHANE: This concludes the  
 21 presentation of information about the proposals. In  
 22 a few minutes we'll begin the public comment portion  
 23 of the hearing.

24 You have several ways to provide your  
 25 comments. If you've brought written comments,

1 please place them in the box on the comment table  
 2 out in the lobby. Written comments, I do remind  
 3 you, carry the same weight as well as comments  
 4 presented at the hearing.

5 If you want to write down your comments  
 6 while you're here, there are forms at the comment  
 7 table. You can also take a form home to complete  
 8 and mail it back to the address provided on the  
 9 comment form. You can also write up your comments  
 10 in your own format and mail them in. You do not  
 11 need to use the comment forms. They are only for  
 12 your convenience.

13 You will have the opportunity to provide  
 14 oral comments when I begin the public comment  
 15 portion of the hearing in just a couple of minutes.

16 Let me tell you a few things about the  
 17 public comment period. Elected public officials  
 18 will speak first, then we'll hear from those who  
 19 submitted cards today indicating their desire to  
 20 speak. I normally call on people in the order that  
 21 the cards were submitted. However, as I announced  
 22 at the earlier hearing today, depending on the size  
 23 of the crowd tonight, I may have the repeat public  
 24 speakers wait until all of the new speakers have  
 25 made their comments. Since I do have 58 new

1 speakers who signed up, I will call on them first  
 2 and have the 23 repeat speakers wait until the new  
 3 speakers are done.

4 Each individual organization will have  
 5 three minutes to provide comments. You may finish  
 6 your sentence when your time is up. Please stop  
 7 promptly so that we can hear from the maximum number  
 8 of people. Boos and clapping take away time from  
 9 the speakers. Please respect other's viewpoints and  
 10 let them make their comments without interruption.

11 When I do call on you, please come up to  
 12 the microphone here, or at the other side of the  
 13 room, and clearly state your name, the name of the  
 14 organization, if any, you are representing before  
 15 you begin your comments.

16 The transcript of this proceeding will  
 17 be the permanent record and will be published in the  
 18 final SEIS. Please do not provide any personal  
 19 information in your comments if you would not want  
 20 to see it published in the final SEIS.

21 It's very important that you use the  
 22 microphone so that the reporter can hear you and  
 23 that everyone else in the room can hear you. It's  
 24 also important that those of you who are talking  
 25 back there, and you know who you are, will please

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1 quiet down so that we can have an ordinarily  
2 hearing. If you've got to talk, you can step  
3 outside and do it. The focus here tonight is to  
4 listen to your comments regarding the contents of  
5 the draft SEIS.

6 Preceding this presentation, you had an  
7 opportunity to ask questions one on one of the  
8 technical staff and hopefully they were able to  
9 answer your questions. Any further questions asked  
10 in the course of making your statements will be  
11 addressed in the final SEIS rather than answered  
12 tonight. So, again, please focus your comments on  
13 the draft SEIS and the analysis of the reuse  
14 options.

15 If you need to have your comments  
16 translated into English and did not so indicate when  
17 you signed up, please let us know when you get to  
18 the microphone. If you made comments today and  
19 later decide you have additional comments or know  
20 someone who is interested in the comment process but  
21 cannot attend any of the meetings, written comments  
22 can be submitted until March 7th, 2000. The mailing  
23 address can be found in all of the available  
24 hand-outs.

25 I think you folks will be happy to know

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1 that we only have two representatives of elected  
2 public officials tonight and then we'll swing right  
3 into the public. We have Carol Klingbiel speaking  
4 on behalf of Commissioner Sorenson.

5 000285 CAROL KLINGBIEL: Good evening. My name  
6 is Carol Klingbiel. I'm representing Commissioner  
7 Sorenson. She sends her regrets that she can't be  
8 here with you this evening, but she asked me to read  
9 the following comment into the record:

10 We have an opportunity to close an  
11 inappropriate chapter of South Miami-Dade County's  
12 history and to help us to begin to create a bright  
13 new future of economic development, prosperity and  
14 the best protection of our national parks. We can  
15 ask the president to approve the Collier Family  
16 proposed plan of mineral rights for land at former  
17 Homestead Air Force Base.

18 In 1995 Miami-Dade County landed a  
19 no-bid long-term lease to HABDI, a group of  
20 developers to build an airport. I as one of the  
21 commissioners of South Miami-Dade opposed this  
22 vigorously, but was outvoted, however.

23 However, it is a new day. The Collier  
24 and Hoover Family, and Collier and Hoover County and  
25 Lacy Hoover Chase, granddaughter of Herbert Hoover,

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1 who helped to establish Biscayne National Park have  
2 collaborated to develop a first-class golf course,  
3 business park with a hotel resort and aquarium  
4 marine institute and luxury RV community.

5 The plan will create more than 6,800  
6 jobs initially, and more than 2,000 eventually.  
7 More than replacing the job loss after Hurricane  
8 Andrew, destroying the air base.

9 The Collier/Hoover plan offers many  
10 advantages. First, it's compatible with South  
11 Miami-Dade's goals of 1994, redevelopment of the  
12 base, sustaining agriculture and expanding tourism  
13 in contrast to an airport, which threatens  
14 agriculture by paving a way for industrialization  
15 and urban sprawl. That would effect the available  
16 farm land and threaten tourism by creating a noisy  
17 polluting neighbor to Biscayne National Park and its  
18 water visitors and fisher people, and imagine what  
19 it would do to the quality of our neighborhoods and  
20 residential properties.

21 And, second, the Collier/Hoover plan  
22 takes the politics out of the Miami-Dade County.  
23 The Colliers have proposed swapping the land for  
24 mineral rights, which they own in the mid Cypress  
25 National Preserve.

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1 If the Colliers do the transaction at  
2 the federal level, the County will have no claim to  
3 the land or obligations to HABDI, its chosen  
4 developer. Further, it makes the land taxable for  
5 Miami-Dade County.

6 COLONEL McSHANE: Ma'am. Time. You may  
7 leave the written comments for insertion of the  
8 record. Thank you.

9 Natacha Seijas Millan.

10 000286 NATACHA SEIJAS MILLAN: Thank you again  
11 for listening to me. There are some things I said  
12 the other day that don't need to be repeated again,  
13 economic development and employability, but I also  
14 would like to tell you that while many things have  
15 been said about the constant cargo and the planes  
16 every three minutes, that is not a fact. And I  
17 think people need not to give this information,  
18 because that just confuses the issue.

19 Although, part of the study will get  
20 things clear, I wanted to repeat it again. It is  
21 not a huge cargo operation. It is a reliever  
22 airport, and those that don't understand can look in  
23 the dictionary or call anybody that knows about  
24 flying. It's not an area where there was nothing  
25 before. It's an area that had the base. Thank God

1 for that base. Unfortunately, Andrew destroyed it.  
 2 But I am from Cuba, and I can tell you  
 3 that the fact that that base had and still has  
 4 F-16's, F-15's, F-14's, and all the F's. I'm not a  
 5 pilot, I know nothing about aviation, but they were  
 6 there to take care of things that were important to  
 7 us. Andrew destroyed that.  
 8 After Andrew we had problems, problems  
 9 from two residences that that base would be  
 10 conveyed. And as we come in the long drawn out  
 11 issue, and then I challenge you, the one in Key West  
 12 was done quickly and without any complaints.  
 13 Was it perhaps the people did not look  
 14 like me? Was it perhaps for other reasons?  
 15 I say this as a chair of the South  
 16 Florida Planning Council, and I was very supportive  
 17 on the issue of Key West. Because I think they  
 18 deserved it. I thought it was a very good plan and  
 19 I voted and encouraged to vote on the town, because  
 20 it was the right thing to do.  
 21 Now the right thing to do is to listen  
 22 to the people of Homestead. This is a matter of  
 23 Homestead. Listen to the ones that are most  
 24 affected. Easy for anybody to make judgment when  
 25 they don't live in the area, as it is for any

1 commissioner to come out for any private endeavor  
 2 when it's not their district. It's not my district.  
 3 I'm District 13 with the City of Hialeah and Miami  
 4 Lakes. And I can tell you I probably stand here to  
 5 support the people in the South that need jobs.  
 6 As I said before, Federal Express left,  
 7 but it would have brought 700 jobs to that area.  
 8 That only would have been the tip of an iceberg. I  
 9 think they deserve it. I think we need to listen to  
 10 it.  
 11 I want to thank you for your patience.  
 12 Thank you very much.  
 13 COLONEL McSHANE: Jay Suarez?  
 14 000287 JAY SAUREZ: Good evening. My name is  
 15 Jay Saurez. I'm a concerned resident that wishes to  
 16 express the opinions of a large portion of the  
 17 Southwest Miami-Dade.  
 18 I have seen and lived through  
 19 devastation that Andrew brought to the people of  
 20 Miami-Dade County, Naranja, Homestead, Florida City.  
 21 Since the closing of the full Homestead Air Force  
 22 Base, South Miami-Dade lost most of their economy.  
 23 I firmly believe that the opening of a  
 24 commercial airport at this side is not only needed  
 25 for the economy, but also greatly needed relief to

1 Miami International Airport. It is an inevitable  
 2 fact that we must have a relief airport somewhere in  
 3 Miami-Dade County.  
 4 A lot of emphasis has been put on the  
 5 noise pollution issue. I would like to point out  
 6 that commercial planes have more noise suppression  
 7 than war planes. If we take this opportunity to  
 8 work towards a common goal, environmentalists and  
 9 growth we win, otherwise the future will bring  
 10 uncontrolled growth and chaos, then we and our  
 11 planet will lose. Thank you.  
 12 COLONEL McSHANE: Catharina Bernabei.  
 13 000288 CATHARINA BERNABBI: Ladies and  
 14 Gentlemen, good evening. I am Cathy Bernabei. I am  
 15 a mother of three children and a teacher for 27  
 16 years. I teach children with mental retardation.  
 17 I'm a scout leader for 30 years. I am going to  
 18 speak from the heart. My heart is beating very fast  
 19 right now.  
 20 I would like to take you on a journey.  
 21 I would like you to travel with me with your mind's  
 22 eye 100 years ago, 1900's, let's say in the cosmos,  
 23 looking down on planet earth, our beautiful planet.  
 24 Just vision it. Then zoom in closer to Florida,  
 25 South Florida. Florida with the Everglades flowing

1 from Lake Okeechobee all the way to the base,  
 2 beautiful river of grass, with flocks and flocks of  
 3 birds, Ibises, Egrets, Spoonbills, thousands and  
 4 thousands, and panthers abundant, and the black  
 5 bear, and people, the Seminole tribes living in  
 6 peace together. Then came the settlers.  
 7 Let's travel again to the year 2000. We  
 8 celebrated 2000. Look, ladies and Gentlemen, Mr.  
 9 Penelas and everybody, here we are with our parks,  
 10 little dots left. The flocks aren't flocks anymore.  
 11 And understand, that I have seen flocks of birds for  
 12 at least ten years in Africa as a child and I've  
 13 seen flocks of Flamingos and crown birds rise up  
 14 above the Anatomica, and its marvelous sight that we  
 15 don't have anymore. It angers me we cannot give it  
 16 to our children, but let it be, we have our parks,  
 17 thank goodness, but they are so endangered. They  
 18 are sick. Our panthers are doomed. Lots of plant  
 19 and animal life is extinct, which wasn't 100 years  
 20 ago.  
 21 Our nature is very strong, it can bounce  
 22 back, but we cannot put more stress on our  
 23 Everglades. It is not even feasible. If we had the  
 24 Everglades as they were 100 years ago, we could risk  
 25 it and say, okay, air pollution, noise, if it's

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1 damaged, we have enough Everglades left. It may  
2 restore itself. No, we have to act now.  
3 Let's travel some more my fellow  
4 Floridians. Let's go to the Year 3000. The  
5 Everglades are gone, and our children are angry with  
6 us. They can only vision the Everglades in movies.  
7 Thank you.  
8 COLONEL McSHANE: Germaine Tilney.  
9 000289 GERMAINE TILNEY: My name is Germaine  
10 Tilney. I'm with the Sierra Club. I'd like to show  
11 a video.  
12 (Thereupon, a video was shown.)  
13 COLONEL McSHANE: Any other comments?  
14 GERMAINE TILNEY: I have a minute left?  
15 COLONEL McSHANE: I can give you a  
16 little bit of time.  
17 GERMAINE TILNEY: I came here in 1950,  
18 and one of the reasons I'm still here is because of  
19 the Everglades National Park. I just love it. And  
20 I remember what it was like in 1950, and I want my  
21 grandchildren and their grandchildren to enjoy it  
22 the way I did.  
23 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Michael  
24 Slotnick.  
25 000290 MICHAEL SLOTNICK: My name is Michael

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1 Slotnick. I live at 10340 Southwest 96th Terrace.  
2 I've been a resident of Southwest Dade County since  
3 July of 1953.  
4 When I came to Dade County, I remember  
5 Homestead as a thriving community supported in large  
6 respect by the air base. That continued until the  
7 twin disasters in the early 1990's, Hurricane  
8 Andrew, and the closing of the base.  
9 Prior to that time I could not remember  
10 reading or hearing any negative comments about the  
11 air base, that it was a harm to the community or a  
12 detriment to the environment. My son-in-law, Craig  
13 Roth, is presently an endodontist in the Downtown  
14 Homestead area. He, my daughter, Debbie, and her  
15 two children live in the Redlands area. Within the  
16 last couple of years Debbie and Craig have been  
17 getting very displeased with the area. The fact  
18 that there's a lack of commerce and they looked at  
19 it as having a very weak future. To my wife and my  
20 regret, they are seriously considering relocating.  
21 Also back in 1953 I remember Miami  
22 International Airport as being several isolated  
23 hangers along Northwest 36th Street. I've watched  
24 that grow into the giant that it is today, catering  
25 to the cargo international all over the world

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1 passengers, but it also has expensive gates which  
2 drive up the airfares.  
3 I looked in the Sunday Harold in the  
4 travel section, there's a big difference between the  
5 airfares between Fort Lauderdale Airport and Miami  
6 Airport. It also has no room to grow.  
7 Miami, our county needs a second airport  
8 that will handle cargo, that will serve as a  
9 regional airport with less expensive gates and  
10 hopefully lower fares. What better place is there  
11 for an airport than on a track of land that for  
12 decades has served as an air base and at the same  
13 time will return some of the prosperity to Homestead  
14 that I remember back in 1953.  
15 Thank you.  
16 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Richard  
17 Grosso.  
18 000291 RICHARD GROSSO: Good evening. Thank  
19 you. My name is Richard Grosso. I am here  
20 representing the Sierra Club, Tropical Audubon  
21 Society and Everglades Coalition this evening.  
22 The assumption of the Environmental  
23 Impact Statement as it discusses this commercial  
24 project to Dade County is that we must accept and  
25 live with a certain amount of degradation in the

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1 name of economic development. Why would this  
2 community, when it has the option of having good  
3 economic development that does not degrade the  
4 national parks and the economic generator that they  
5 are, why would you choose the most environmentally  
6 destructive alternative? That does not make sense  
7 at all economically or environmentally.  
8 Dade County, I was the lawyer for the  
9 Sierra Club in the land use process that got us  
10 here. We sat across from Dade County and when Dade  
11 County is saying, it's going to consider a buffer,  
12 it's going to consider the concepts of a buffer,  
13 it's going to consider the noise concepts of  
14 National Parks. We sat across the table from them,  
15 when push came to shove, and specifics were being  
16 discussed, they weren't willing to do the things  
17 that they said they were. They weren't willing to  
18 ensure that the noise levels are consistent with the  
19 national parks. It's easy to say. It's hard to do.  
20 It can't be done with this project.  
21 The project of Dade County is  
22 open-ended, it's a nice deal for the developer, it  
23 puts a lot of financial burden on the taxpayers of  
24 Miami-Dade County. You've heard tonight both Dade  
25 County commit to a full blown airport, then we've

1 heard they're committed to a limited airport. Which  
 2 is it? What exactly is the plan? That's a huge  
 3 problem. We cannot get by on project this important  
 4 with slogans and just saying it's going to be  
 5 economic development.

6 Most people that I've heard in terms of  
 7 the airline industry says this location does not  
 8 make sense. If the Dade County taxpayers put almost  
 9 a billion dollars into trying to make this a running  
 10 airport and it doesn't work, who's out that money?  
 11 The taxpayers are out that money. So that does not  
 12 make sense.

13 Now, the Everglades Coalition has asked  
 14 me to come and speak tonight. Their position is  
 15 that they're fully against the commercial airport  
 16 here. This Environmental Impact Statement when it  
 17 turns into a final Environmental Impact Statement  
 18 must include an unbiased, comprehensive analysis of  
 19 all the impacts. And you're looking at economic  
 20 impacts. What are the economic negatives here?  
 21 What existing industries in the Upper Keys and South  
 22 Dade County are going to be hurt by this project?

23 The final EIS must address fully and  
 24 resolve the objections of the Department of  
 25 Interior, the noise issue is a huge issue. It's

1 easy to say you're going to fix it. It's really  
 2 hard to fix it. That must be flushed out in the  
 3 entirety. The final EIS must analyze all mitigation  
 4 necessary, look at the costs of all mitigation  
 5 necessary, the buffer, all of those issues, and  
 6 translate that into the final Environmental Impact  
 7 Statement.

8 This is a national park. There are two  
 9 national parks. You would not do something like  
 10 this at Yosemite. You would try to do a true  
 11 project that brings in jobs and projects the  
 12 environment here. You don't have to make a choice.  
 13 You can't have both. We must insist on the  
 14 community having both.

15 Thank you.

16 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Tom Kirby.

17 000292 TOM KIRBY: Good evening, Ladies and  
 18 Gentlemen. My name is Tom Kirby. I live in  
 19 Kendall, however, I'm a third generation  
 20 Homesteadian and only moved after my house was  
 21 smashed by Hurricane Andrew. I'm also the executive  
 22 director of the Dade County Farm Bureau. There's  
 23 6,000 plus in our organization representing working  
 24 people, many whom have been building this community  
 25 for over 100 years.

1 Lately I've been contemplating a work  
 2 consensus, and how it's recently been interpreted by  
 3 those blocking development of the commercial airport  
 4 at the Homestead Air Force Base.

5 For six years the environmental  
 6 community has been disseminating information about  
 7 the project. Not everyone has the time to read  
 8 through Environmental Impact Statements. Once  
 9 environmentalists paralyze the average person with  
 10 fear and confusion, they say the project cannot move  
 11 forward without consensus.

12 We have consensus in South Dade. Here's  
 13 a list of parks, local groups and individuals  
 14 currently that support the development of the  
 15 commercial airport. The Homestead/Florida City  
 16 Chamber of Commerce, Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas,  
 17 Division Council, Chamber South, Homestead Mayor  
 18 Steve Schriver, Florida City Mayor Otis Wallis,  
 19 Hialeah Mayor Raul Martinez, Senator Gerald Jones  
 20 and Senator Bob Graham, and other than those that I  
 21 mentioned, you can't forget that Governor Lawton  
 22 Chiles, a former United States senator, someone who  
 23 became a legend in this State and a leader of the  
 24 environmental community, plus a 7 to 0 vote in order  
 25 to move this project forward. Included in that,

1 however, was Bill Nelson a former astronaut. Who  
 2 better than anyone understands the effects of air  
 3 traffic on the environment?

4 If all of these groups and leaders  
 5 endorse this project, why do the environmentalists  
 6 oppose it? They're either not in the community,  
 7 they're either not involved in the community, or  
 8 they're a very minority voice.

9 On Tuesday night you heard from several  
 10 mayors of Miami-Dade County, and they expressed the  
 11 importance of this airport. There's one lone voice  
 12 opposing it, and that's Miami-Dade Commissioner Katy  
 13 Sorenson. Unfortunately for those of us who have  
 14 worked so hard to see this through, Katy the  
 15 environmentalist, the position she seems to be  
 16 holding is opposed to this project because she is a  
 17 commissioner for South Dade County. She let the  
 18 rest of the county believe that she truly represents  
 19 South Dade's wishes.

20 Two years ago she told the Greater Miami  
 21 Convention Visitor's Bureau that South Dade didn't  
 22 want an airport, and instead wanted opportunity for  
 23 eco-tourism, and Katy told the truth from the  
 24 beginning, you could not be wasting your time trying  
 25 to engage in consensus, there is consensus. There's

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1 always been consensus.  
2 COLONEL McSHANE: Time, sir. Thank you.  
3 Christopher Roy.  
4 000293 CHRISTOPHER ROY: Good evening. I'm  
5 speaking as a concerned resident of South Florida,  
6 and I would just like to say that if a commercial  
7 airport is allowed to open at the Homestead Air  
8 Base, it would be the closest airport to a national  
9 park in the United States.  
10 That means 230,00 flights over these  
11 parks is unnecessary and uncalled for. The proposed  
12 airport will not comply with the national parks'  
13 system standard for airplane noise. There will no  
14 longer be a significant quiet natural resource left  
15 in the two parks.  
16 Yes, it's true that the Air Force jets  
17 are louder than commercial jets, but Air Force jets  
18 do not take off every five minutes. Air Force jets  
19 take off and stay aloft.  
20 In order to protect the two national  
21 parks from pollution, the planes would be required  
22 to use north and south corridors, would replace the  
23 Florida Keys, directing the flight pattern of the  
24 aircraft. The use and enjoyment of the waters in  
25 and around Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

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1 depends on large measure on the tranquility and  
2 peace of those waters, and the air space over those  
3 waters.  
4 The redevelopment of the air base as a  
5 commercial airport would change land use patterns in  
6 South Miami-Dade County, which would ultimately  
7 create adverse pressures on land use and  
8 comprehensive plans in the Upper Keys. Some of  
9 these pressures include increased development in  
10 Monroe County, increase in land owner expectations,  
11 and the exacerbation of the hurricane evacuation  
12 bottleneck.  
13 Hialeah Mayor Raul Martinez was quoted  
14 in yesterday's edition of the Miami Herald as  
15 saying, quote, "There can't be a compromise. You  
16 can find a solution that balances the economy and  
17 the environment."  
18 Mayor Martinez's statement is correct,  
19 the proposed airport does not and cannot accomplish  
20 this. The only way for this balance to be  
21 accomplished is for a mixed-use proposal, not a  
22 commercial airport.  
23 Thank you.  
24 COLONEL McSHANE: Let me remind some of  
25 you folks about the ground rules here. You get

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1 about three minutes to speak. I told speakers that  
2 they could finish their thoughts. So you folks are  
3 hollering, "time" as soon as the cards go up, don't  
4 do that. I will stop them when they finish their  
5 thought. I'll take care of running the hearing.  
6 That's my job.  
7 Esther Bonnie Rosa Cintron.  
8 000294 ESTHER BONNIE CINTRON: I too am a  
9 school teacher and I live in the Miami Lakes area.  
10 I work in Carol City/Opa-Locka.  
11 I contribute regularly to the Sierra  
12 Club and as well as many other environmental  
13 organizations. I too was a Girl Scout for ten  
14 years, and I've done a lot of camping, including the  
15 Everglades.  
16 In my classroom as well as my personal  
17 life, I've always pushed for conservation and  
18 preservation issues, but none of those things that  
19 we heard today, like the extinction of all the  
20 animals and plants that have happened in the past  
21 were due to an airport on a Homestead site. There  
22 was an airport existing there when it was the most  
23 busy military base on the Continental United States,  
24 it was there for years, and Everglades seemed to  
25 survivor fairly well, not as well as in the past,

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1 but that really was not the fault of the airport.  
2 It was the fault of all the people coming into South  
3 Florida, and I doubt that we're going to stop that.  
4 I remember very well that the Air Force  
5 Base did not seem to have any disastrous effect over  
6 the environment. I'm just wondering why after 27  
7 studies were done and they all concluded that there  
8 would be no negative impact as long as certain  
9 guidelines were followed, I can't understand why the  
10 question keeps coming up again and again.  
11 And then if you think for a moment, if  
12 we believe what the environmentalists are saying,  
13 then we must conclude that they're saying it's going  
14 to be very harmful to have an airport so we won't  
15 put it there. We'll put it somewhere else. Well,  
16 we happen to live, the people where I live, happen  
17 to live in the somewhere else that has been  
18 considered, and all I can tell you is, if it's  
19 harmful there, what will it be doing to all of us?  
20 There are thousands and thousands of people who live  
21 in the Opa-Locka, Carol City, Miami Lakes area. The  
22 entire area is surrounded by homes very close to the  
23 airport. Florida Memorial College is a stone's  
24 throw from the runway. They have the Marion Center  
25 for Retarded People there. Any kind of mishap would

1 be a double disaster, not only for the people on the  
2 plane, but it would have impact on the ground as  
3 well.

4 I just can't understand why we can't go  
5 ahead and try to do something carefully at this  
6 Homestead site, which is a much more logical and  
7 sensible site. There's a lot more room there. And  
8 there already is a good facility going. Just the  
9 air traffic question alone at Opa-Locka would be  
10 terrible for the air traffic controllers. We are  
11 about 12 miles from Miami International Airport.

12 Thank you.

13 BY COLONEL McSHANE: Next speaker is  
14 Maurice Ferre.

15 000295 MAURICE FERRE: Ladies and Gentlemen,  
16 and hearing officers, I wrote a letter, and it's on  
17 the record, to the Vice President of the United  
18 States. I just wanted to paraphrase what I said.

19 Repeatedly we've had environmental  
20 studies that have been done and all of them have  
21 concluded basically the same thing. The issue that  
22 is before us, I think, has to do with economic  
23 future of this community. Unlike other communities,  
24 we don't have an industrial base. We also have an  
25 overly dependent in our 100 years of history on

1 tourism.

2 In the last 20 years a phenomenon has  
3 happened in this community, that is, Miami has  
4 become a major international center of trade and  
5 commerce, and that is, basically, because of Miami's  
6 geographic position. There are 400 million people  
7 in Latin America and increasingly they all look to  
8 Miami as the entry point to the United States and  
9 they bring their business and their banking and  
10 their other needs here. They also get services  
11 here, medical services, education, University of  
12 Miami, FIU are becoming increasingly important.  
13 That all depends on the airport.

14 Miami International Airport is the  
15 eighth most important airport in the world. But,  
16 unfortunately, because of its limitations of 3,000  
17 acres, it is very close to full capacity. It was a  
18 difficult task to get that fourth runway going, but  
19 even with that fourth runway, all of the experts  
20 that have looked at this, experts that look at the  
21 airport says that within the next ten years it will  
22 reach capacity. That means that once we have two  
23 and a half million tons of cargo and 40 to 45  
24 million passengers, that airport cannot hold  
25 anymore.

1 So the question is about the future.  
2 And we're not talking about just the people that are  
3 coming in here as tourists, doing trade and  
4 commerce, we're talking about five million American  
5 citizens that live in South Florida that work and  
6 live and enjoy this community. There is no choice  
7 other than that Homestead Base. We can't go to  
8 Opa-Locka, it doesn't work. All the experts have  
9 said that. We can't go to Fort Lauderdale? That  
10 doesn't work.

11 So I think having looked at this  
12 environmentally and concluded that there is no major  
13 reason not to have it, it is absolutely essential  
14 for the economic health and wellbeing of the future  
15 of this community to have that alternate airport in  
16 Homestead.

17 Thank you, sir.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Michael  
19 Robinson.

20 000296 MICHAEL ROBINSON: Thank you. I'm not  
21 speaking from a prepared statement, so this is a  
22 little bit from the cuff.

23 One thing I would like to talk about is  
24 the noise. Earlier we had a speaker who spoke about  
25 how the county is very wishy-washy with the amount

1 of noise that they're going to allow. However, I  
2 want to speak more about the effect of the noise on  
3 the animals.

4 I'm a biologist at the University of  
5 Miami. I study animal behavior, and one thing I'm  
6 positive of is that animals are detrimentally  
7 affected by noise. Now, these statements are  
8 supported by many, many studies in biology. The one  
9 study has shown that mammals will go miles and miles  
10 out of their way to avoid human being noise. If you  
11 guys like seeing dolphins, well, there's a good  
12 chance they're not going to be around that much  
13 longer.

14 But the mammals most detrimentally  
15 affected by noise are birds. Florida has one of the  
16 most diverse bird population in North America, both  
17 resident birds and birds that migrate through.

18 Now, studies have shown that birds, they  
19 don't like living near airports than the rest of you  
20 guys. Someone who spoke and says, she doesn't want  
21 an airport living by her living in Opa-Locka. Let  
22 me tell you something, the birds don't like it  
23 either. One, they'll either avoid the area  
24 completely. Another one, even sadder story, birds  
25 will be bothered by the noise and they might make a

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1 nest, they might even lay an egg, but then they'll  
2 abandon that egg.

3 So we have two effects. We're going to  
4 lose the bird population and we're also going to  
5 lose the baby bird population, which is the adult  
6 birds of the future. So if we're going to keep  
7 people coming down here, keep birds coming down from  
8 Canada, from the rest of America, if we want to keep  
9 our bird population and the rest of our animal  
10 population at reasonable levels, we must not build  
11 this airport.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Dorothy  
14 Cook?

15 000297 DOROTHY COOK: Good evening. Thank you  
16 for having us. I have the advantage of studying the  
17 reports on Homestead as a member of the Planning and  
18 Advisory Board, and at the time there was very  
19 little objection from the environmentalists or  
20 anyone else. The 100,000 that were moved out of  
21 Homestead because of Andrew, the people that  
22 remained were promised jobs and an airport. Two  
23 presidents promised this.

24 After 27 environmental studies, all  
25 confirming that this was the right way to go, I

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1 think it's time that we actually stopped all the  
2 studies and started building the airport. Opa-Locka  
3 is in the northwest section of Miami. Miami Lakes  
4 is a bird sanctuary, and we can't afford to develop  
5 Opa-Locka any more than it is, it's too congested.  
6 It's a residential section with schools, all kinds  
7 of things going on.

8 Homestead has the advantage of an  
9 airport already there. When the gentleman said  
10 something about animals and birds, there's a word  
11 for it, a big word, it's adaptation, and they do  
12 adapt. It's true.

13 The SEIS, which is the most  
14 comprehensive, expensive and well done scientific  
15 environmental study in the history of our nation,  
16 air quality is protected, water resources are  
17 protected, area protected from unacceptable noise  
18 impact. The airport is safe. The airport will not  
19 disturb the wetlands, the airport will not adversely  
20 affect wildlife and habitat. The manatees and  
21 crocodiles in Biscayne National Park will not be  
22 harmed. There is no aviation safety threat to  
23 Turkey Point Nuclear Plant.

24 Thank you for your time.

25 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.

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1 Luisa Rivero?

2 000298 LUISA RIVERO: Good evening. My name is  
3 Luisa Rivero. I'm a citizen of South Florida, and  
4 in my family's name I would like to give my support  
5 of the redevelopment of Homestead and the reliever  
6 airport, which according to scientific studies is  
7 environmentally compatible which will not damage the  
8 environment and will generate thousands of good  
9 paying jobs and millions of earnings for the  
10 Homestead residents.

11 Please, do not delay any longer this  
12 project.

13 Thank you.

14 COLONEL McSHANE: Alexander Stone.

15 000299 ALEXANDER STONE: Thank you. I'm  
16 against redevelopment of the Air Force Base as a  
17 commercial airport and in favor of the mixed-use  
18 alternative. I think the final SEIS has to take in  
19 full consideration the national interest in the  
20 national parks, which is not covered in the last  
21 Environmental Impact Statement. The question at  
22 hand and the issues at hand are not just local.  
23 These are national parks that are being threatened  
24 and potentially impacted, so nationally in these  
25 parks has to address that and that hasn't been done.

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1 I think it's important to prove growth  
2 and project development in South Dade. A mixed-use  
3 alternative will provide in excess of 11,500 jobs.  
4 To do that, moreover, will give a fast economic  
5 payoff to the area that the airport alternative  
6 would, the jobs will be there sooner, people will  
7 have money in their pockets sooner with a lot lower  
8 environmental risk.

9 Another thing the EIS doesn't consider  
10 when it looks at the question of the need for a  
11 reliever airport, in fact, this is supposed to be a  
12 regional airport, and region doesn't just mean Dade  
13 County. There is a Fort Lauderdale International  
14 Airport. I live in Downtown Miami. I use the Fort  
15 Lauderdale International Airport. It takes me the  
16 same amount of time to drive to the Fort Lauderdale  
17 International Airport as it would to take me to  
18 drive to the Homestead Air Force Base.

19 The final version of the supplemental  
20 EIS has got to bring back into the equation, not  
21 just look at Dade County like we're an island in  
22 space, with nothing beyond its borders to connect it  
23 to a regional concept of airport service and  
24 delivery.

25 And, yes, the lady that said that there

1 would not be one flight per three minutes. I  
 2 projected it, the Air Force is right. According to  
 3 the EIS, with a single runway, the projected build  
 4 out is 231,000 flights per year. Do the math. That  
 5 is not one flight every three minutes. That's one  
 6 flight every two and a half minutes. Okay. That's  
 7 24 flights an hour. 24 hours a day, every day.

8 How can you tie that in, or make that  
 9 fit national in these national parks? Do you really  
 10 think that you could have a national park experience  
 11 in a place where jets roar overhead every two and a  
 12 half minutes?

13 The question is not the same as the  
 14 question of a military base. Military bases invoke  
 15 national defense, as is reasonably exempt from  
 16 normal consideration and environmental standards.  
 17 That's why there's an Air Force Base there and the  
 18 environmentalists never complained about it. It  
 19 wouldn't do any good, because we wouldn't claim  
 20 exception under national defense, but you can't do  
 21 that with a commercial airport. That's why this  
 22 thing doesn't belong between those two national  
 23 parks.

24 Thank you.  
 25 COLONEL McSHANE: Michael Amico.

1 000300 MICHAEL AMICO: Good evening, everybody.  
 2 My name is Michael Amico. I come here as a citizen,  
 3 environmentally concerned citizen.

4 With regard to the redevelopment plans,  
 5 many people hang their heads on jobs, but there's  
 6 more than one peg to this job market, one of those  
 7 pegs is the airport. The figures of 38,000 jobs  
 8 will not mean until 2025, 2030 when the full build  
 9 out is estimated.

10 What we must consider, we must consider  
 11 another stronger, more sensible environmentally  
 12 friendly plan. This is the mixed-use alternative.  
 13 Mixed-use alternative option has to base that  
 14 approximately 5,500 to 6,000 jobs will manifest  
 15 itself by 2,005, while the airport will produce or  
 16 3700 jobs in the same amount of time.

17 Additionally, the same thing holds true  
 18 for the estimates that impact the mixed-use  
 19 alternative. It estimates 1,600 million annual  
 20 increase by 2005, while the airport only estimates  
 21 1,500 million dollar increase.

22 I implore that our happy home under the  
 23 correct peg, the mixed us alternative peg, the  
 24 quicker in realization and the environmentally  
 25 concerned.

1 Thank you.  
 2 COLONEL McSHANE: Dennis Sytsma.

3 000301 DENNIS SYTSMA: Good evening. Thank you  
 4 for the opportunity to speak.

5 My name is Dennis Sytsma. I lived in  
 6 the northwest area in the Redlands area near  
 7 Homestead for over 30 years, so I don't want to hear  
 8 any finger pointing here saying all people live in  
 9 Homestead want a commercial airport, it's not true.  
 10 The community is pulverized, so pulverized that many  
 11 are scared to speak against what their minister may  
 12 be in favor of, what their community leader and  
 13 business leaders are in favor of. Many of them are  
 14 like me say, gee, do we have to have this shoved  
 15 down my throat, and my family. I don't think that  
 16 that's fair.

17 And Homestead has faced adversity before  
 18 with environmental issues, like the mayor said, it's  
 19 de'ja vu all over again.

20 Members of the media, please do the  
 21 research. Check the Miami Herald. Check the South  
 22 Dade Turkey Point Nuclear Plant.

23 We heard all these promises before,  
 24 jobs, jobs, jobs, and electricity too cheap to  
 25 meter. Well, I'm still waiting for the electricity

1 to be too cheap to meter. Too many promises. The  
 2 commercial airport will not thrive without a major  
 3 aviation sponsor.

4 And I also heard the president promised  
 5 us, Bill Clinton promised us, again, media do the  
 6 research. Check Texas AM University's Presidential  
 7 library, pull out what was written about Homestead  
 8 Junior High, where I went to school and where the  
 9 president spoke. We weren't promised a commercial  
 10 airport, we were promised that the base would be  
 11 rebuilt as a military base. Now that promise was  
 12 not kept because of the action by the BRAK  
 13 commission, which only congress can change, only  
 14 congress can overwrite what BRAK decided. So a  
 15 broken promise is a broken promise. They did not  
 16 promise a commercial airport.

17 I favor the mixed-use proposal because  
 18 in the early '70's, when I went to South Dade High  
 19 School, I did what any job seeker should do, I  
 20 checked the research. I found out what are the jobs  
 21 of the future going to be, because that's what we're  
 22 worried about here, the future. We want the best  
 23 future for our children, the best future for our  
 24 community. I want the best for every job seeker who  
 25 seeks, but you need to attain the skills needed, and

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1 that is through education.  
2 Please don't wait for empty promises of  
3 a commercial airport. Job seekers, whatever age you  
4 are, go to your school, find a mentor, find a  
5 teacher and learn, and attain those skills. So if  
6 you could read it, you could do it. I did it. I  
7 went and did the research. I went to Miami-Dade  
8 Community College. I went to Florida International  
9 University. I got the skills necessary, and I can  
10 put my resume on the Internet now and get employed  
11 almost anywhere. I could work out of my closet and  
12 make a good living.

13 So, please, job seekers, don't wait for  
14 empty promises. Don't listen to all the smart  
15 people who are smarter than me, obviously. Please,  
16 help yourself invest in your own future. Get an  
17 education. Get a job.

18 Thank you for hearing my comments  
19 tonight.

COLONEL McSHANE: Diana Alvear.

21 000302 DIANA ALVEAR: Good evening. I'm Diana  
22 Alvear, a long time Miami resident. In fact, I  
23 would like to say, first of all, we don't speak  
24 through the commissioner's mouth, not all the  
25 conditos feel the way you do. There's

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1 environmentalists that do research and realize an  
2 airport in Homestead is not the best option we have.

3 I understand how you feel. I live in  
4 Miami Lakes. I know that having an airport there  
5 wouldn't exactly be paradise, at the same time  
6 though I'd have to side with people saying in  
7 between two national parks, that is not our best  
8 option, and it's not fair to just shunt it off to  
9 someplace where we know we can get away with it, and  
10 the short term profits in the end will be very few.

11 I'd also like to mention that, talking  
12 about tourism and the need to sustain this and have  
13 a place where people can go to another airport so  
14 Miami won't be so congested. Well, tourists visit  
15 national parks too. In fact, a lot of tourists do,  
16 and I've had lots of friends from college, from  
17 other states and places come to Miami, come to South  
18 Florida to visit the Everglades. Because, you know  
19 what? There's nothing like it anywhere else?

20 And if you go to the Everglades and you  
21 see airplanes going on every couple of minutes,  
22 well, then, it's not an enjoyable experience. And  
23 you know what? There won't be the birds to look out  
24 for, the other mammals to look out for. It won't be  
25 the experience and tranquility that it can be.

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1 I have been to the Everglades so many  
2 times. I go whenever I get a chance because Miami  
3 is very loved and I like the climate that it offers  
4 me. It won't be an option if HABDI has their way.  
5 They have all these measures that the sound is not  
6 going to be intolerable and that we're going to look  
7 out for the animals. I don't think that's going to  
8 happen, I really don't think so.

9 I would encourage you in the hearings  
10 right now to please consider this, I don't have  
11 children. I don't have a family just yet. I'm  
12 thinking about everyone's children nationally, okay.  
13 Let's please preserve these national parks. They're  
14 all we have left.

15 Thank you.

COLONEL McSHANE: Robert Dolinsky.

17 000303 ROBERT DOLINSKY: Hello, my name is  
18 Robert Dolinsky. Obviously with issues like this  
19 there's two main issues -- one main issue with two  
20 opposing sides, and basically what the people up  
21 here have to do is weigh the issues right here. You  
22 have the environmentalists on one side and people  
23 favoring the commercial airport.

24 I think the only thing you can really do  
25 is look at the facts. They've done studies to

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1 ensure the environment you've been taking care of  
2 won't have any detrimental effect. It's been a  
3 costly and lengthy study. It would be a complete  
4 waste of taxpayers' money to completely go for what  
5 came out of it.

6 On the opposite side, they know for a  
7 fact that it will create jobs that will generate  
8 revenue for a very, very poor community compared to  
9 the rest of the State of Florida that hasn't  
10 prospered with the economic boom that the rest of  
11 the nation has.

12 In addition to that, it will also help  
13 us subsidize the increased amount of air traffic  
14 that's coming into the Miami Airport. so I just  
15 urge the Commission to take into consideration all  
16 the facts and make an informed decision, which would  
17 be to go with a commercial airport.

18 Thank you.

19 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Karen  
20 Franklin.

21 000304 KAREN FRANKLIN: I'm Karen Franklin, I'm  
22 here to talk about Lake Okeechobee, which is also a  
23 place like the Everglades. Lake Okeechobee is the  
24 largest lake in the Southern United States.  
25 Okeechobee is a Seminole Indian word that means

1 plenty big waters.

2 The lake lies in South Central Florida  
3 and borders the northern part of the Everglades. It  
4 covers about 700 square miles, and has an average  
5 depth of nine feet. The system of canals arise out  
6 of outlets to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of  
7 Mexico. The canals are vital in supplying water in  
8 the urban area, along Southern Florida's Atlantic  
9 Coast.

10 COLONEL McSHANE: Georgia Millard.

11 000305 GEORGIA MILLARD: My name is Georgia  
12 Millard. Margaret Stoneman Douglas is considered  
13 the mother of the Everglades. She's written many  
14 books that take time to describe the beautiful  
15 Everglades and echo-system around us, and why we  
16 have to save this.

17 These reasons have to do with the  
18 animals and all the habitats inside, even us.  
19 People that appreciate the Everglades know all about  
20 this. They love to visit and is a place to keep.  
21 If you think we should still build the airport,  
22 well, that's your decision, but please listen to us  
23 and consider that we are trying to make a difference  
24 in our world.

25 COLONEL McSHANE: Juliet Barrientos.

1 000306 JULIET BARRIENTOS: Hello. My name is  
2 Juliet Barrientos. I'm here to tell you a little  
3 bit about the Everglades National Park.

4 Everglades National Park is one of our  
5 few tropical regions in the United States, actually,  
6 the only one. Located on the southwestern tip of  
7 the Florida peninsula, this park includes 10,000  
8 islands along the Gulf of Mexico and the part of the  
9 Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp.

10 Its jungle plant life includes sawgrass,  
11 orchids, cypress trees, pines, palms, and mangrove  
12 trees. There's also manatees, turtles that live in  
13 the Everglades. The Everglades was established in  
14 1947, and it is very important to us. So please  
15 help us save it.

16 Thank you.

17 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Alan  
18 Bernover.

19 000307 ALAN BERNOVER: Good evening, members of  
20 the Panel. Earlier a gentleman spoke about being an  
21 educated citizen and I live in Dade County and I am  
22 an educated citizen, and I'd like to tell you some  
23 of the facts that have yet, since I've been  
24 listening, to be mentioned.

25 After the hurricane in '92, the

1 president and the Secretary Perry all promised that  
2 the Homestead area would be re-developed and the  
3 tremendous need for jobs would be satisfied. Eight  
4 years has passed and there's been no action.

5 Now many of the environmentalists and  
6 others have mentioned various facts that would show  
7 a reliever airport in Homestead would be an  
8 incorrect and erroneous thought.

9 However, if you look at some of the  
10 facts, South Florida does not need a reliever  
11 airport. This has been shown to be erroneous.  
12 Opa-Locka is the feasible alternative and non  
13 airport proposals would create the equivalent number  
14 of long-term good paying jobs, but more delays are  
15 necessary further study and further studies in fact  
16 are necessary.

17 These thoughts are incorrect, and recent  
18 reports and studies that have been conducted  
19 indicate several things; that the airport will, in  
20 fact, meet Federal Clear Air requirements; that the  
21 proposed action includes a comprehensive surface  
22 water management master plan for managing on-site  
23 storm water; that the plan will comply with permit  
24 provisions heading for South Florida Water  
25 Management District.

1 The country's leading independent  
2 experts have concluded that a commercial airport in  
3 Homestead will have an environmentally compatible  
4 noise impact, and as the study is concluded, the  
5 developmental effects on the wetlands are minor and  
6 that these resources will be protected under Federal  
7 and State regulations.

8 The FAA has confirmed that an airport  
9 will produce as many as 38,000 related jobs,  
10 estimated to produce over 800 million dollars in  
11 earnings with a potential in upwards of one billion  
12 dollars.

13 Now, the time has come to fulfill on  
14 these promises and the people in need and the area  
15 that is still plagued by these problems after  
16 Andrew. It's time for action.

17 Thank you.

18 BY COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Kaley  
19 Kriminger.

20 000308 KALEY KRIMINGER: Hi, my name is Kaley  
21 Kriminger, and I'm here to represent R4H Club. What  
22 I envision at Homestead Air Force Base is a  
23 ecological theme park resembling a rain forest.  
24 This could work as a model for other parks to  
25 provide an example for replanting native plants and

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1 animals.  
2 We are losing our natural areas at such  
3 a rapid pace. In only 100 years we have scarred the  
4 land and taken away the habitats of our native  
5 animals. Imagine what life is like at this spot  
6 where the Sequesta Indians, an abundance of fish,  
7 sea life, and animals such as bears, otters, and  
8 panthers roam this land, along with a wide array of  
9 fleeing birds.

10 I've heard about the commercial airport  
11 being built by South Florida's two national parks,  
12 Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park.  
13 Of course I strongly disagree with this action.  
14 These are some of the reasons why we should not give  
15 the commercial airport by two national parks.

16 First of all, it will hold noise  
17 pollution, which will scare the animals in the close  
18 by national parks.

19 Second, it will cause air pollution.  
20 Once all of the life forms in Biscayne National Park  
21 and Everglades National Park are gone, they will  
22 never come back, extinction is forever. Biscayne  
23 National Park is the only protected reef in the  
24 United States of America, and Everglades National  
25 Park is the only Everglades in the whole wide world.

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1 Let's take good care of these precious  
2 places before they're gone forever. Let's use  
3 vision, not greed. This is paradise lost, but this  
4 could be paradise reborn.

5 Thank you for your consideration.

6 COLONEL McSHANE: Francisco Angones.

7 000309 FRANCISCO ANGONES: Thank you very much.  
8 Good evening to you and to the members of the Air  
9 Force. My name is Francisco Angones, I'm an  
10 attorney, but I am not here in my representative  
11 capacity.

12 I live at 1203 Centona Street, Coral  
13 Gables, Florida, and I have been a resident of  
14 Miami-Dade County for approximately 40 years. For  
15 part of those 40 years I lived in Homestead where I  
16 went to elementary school and high school. I  
17 attended school with many of the children of the Air  
18 Force personnel, including Michael Chaves, whose  
19 father at the time was the highest ranking Hispanic  
20 in the Air Force. Mayors Conley and Dickenson of  
21 Homestead were also my classmates.

22 I have many fond memories of Homestead  
23 where I spent my first few years in this country. I  
24 often wish the Air Force was still there. I think  
25 it was a mistake, but we have to go forward.

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1 I am here to request something that  
2 seems evident to everyone. If an airport is going  
3 to harm Miami-Dade County, if it's going to do  
4 damage to our environment, we shouldn't build an  
5 airport, but since 1991, 1992 we have been studying  
6 this matter to death. Most recently, and I have to  
7 read it, because I never come up with a name, the  
8 government issue, the Supplemental Environmental  
9 Impact Statement, which conclusively states that  
10 commercial air activity at the former base will not  
11 have, "any significant impact on our national parks  
12 and/or its surrounding areas."

13 I think it is time to move on. We need  
14 to develop this former base, provide a sorely needed  
15 airport for our community. Also, this will allow to  
16 keep our county some control and an interest in this  
17 area, whereas, with the other plans it will be lost  
18 for our community.

19 Thirdly, we need the revenues, the  
20 revenues that this airport will create. I think  
21 this matter has been belabored, but I didn't want to  
22 stand by the wayside and not have a say when some  
23 decision is made.

24 Thank you very much for your time and  
25 consideration, sir.

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1 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Jessica  
2 Viquez. She can speak after the next speaker. Luis  
3 Perez

4 000310 LUIS PEREZ: Good evening, distinguished  
5 panelists, my name is Luis Perez. I'm a resident of  
6 Miami-Dade County. I've lived in Miami-Dade County  
7 for 38 years. I went through high school here. I  
8 went three community college here, and I'm presently  
9 living in Kendall.

10 I've seen Miami go from a quiet sleepy  
11 town to a major urban area, an area with typical  
12 growth problems. I think it's important to realize  
13 that the land on which the base is situated was  
14 owned by Miami-Dade County and it was transferred to  
15 the military during the war era for our national  
16 defense. The federal government now, because of  
17 Hurricane Andrew, has an important decision to make,  
18 it depends on the need for jobs versus the impact on  
19 the environment.

20 Based on the fact that Miami-Dade County  
21 owned the property before the federal government  
22 did, Miami-Dade County as a whole and its citizens  
23 as a whole must benefit from the decision. How can  
24 the benefits of all of the citizens of Miami-Dade  
25 County be met while the rest of our nation is in its

1 most prosperous economic times? Miami-Dade County  
 2 and specifically South Dade suffers from tremendous  
 3 unemployment. So this area needs jobs. The  
 4 reliever airport alternative creates the most jobs.  
 5 The Collier alternative creates the  
 6 least amount of jobs. Use of the base as an airport  
 7 is consistent with its present use. Without being  
 8 insensitive to any members of our audience, you know  
 9 the old adage, if it looks like a duck and quacks  
 10 like a duck, it's a duck. Well, this base looks  
 11 like an airport, so it should be continued to be  
 12 used as an airport.  
 13 Regarding the environment, I've got two  
 14 young children, and I'm trying to educate them on  
 15 the environment and have them respect the  
 16 environment. I recycle because studies show that  
 17 it's good to recycle. For that reason, I respect  
 18 the study that has been conducted, and I'm no one to  
 19 question a two-year, five million dollar study.  
 20 Therefore I respectfully urger for the  
 21 Air Force to consider the transfer to Miami-Dade  
 22 County as an airport.  
 23 Thank you.  
 24 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Did  
 25 Jessica Viquez return?

1 000311 JESSICA VIQUEZ: Good evening, my name  
 2 is Jessica Viquez, and I'm here because I support  
 3 the reliever airport.  
 4 With regards to the Collier and Hoover  
 5 development plan, from my experience in the resort  
 6 industry, there is no comparison with earnings and  
 7 positions. \$14,000 is the minimum annual income in  
 8 a resort. \$34,000 is a minimum annual income at the  
 9 airport.  
 10 The difference between the two is a  
 11 significant amount. As to the positions, when I  
 12 first applied at a resort, the available starting  
 13 positions were in the following departments: Golf  
 14 cart rentals and housekeeping, both of which makes  
 15 less than \$14,000 a year. Workers who had been at  
 16 the resort for more than five years in the starting  
 17 position were only earning slightly more and had  
 18 filled the higher positions.  
 19 People who earn \$14,000 a year are at a  
 20 poverty level. Don't you get tired of seeing  
 21 homeless people? Don't you wish you could do  
 22 something like get a job for them, or help them get  
 23 a job, and live a better life? Now you can. All it  
 24 takes is support for the reliever airport.  
 25 What about the students that graduated

1 high school and have to go out looking for jobs, and  
 2 have to pay their schools, because their parents  
 3 couldn't? Not everybody gets a scholarship and/or  
 4 financial aid. Most of them never find a good  
 5 paying job and have to suffer for fast food  
 6 restaurants, department stores, and never have a  
 7 chance to move up to a better position.  
 8 What about small businesses that have  
 9 been forced to cut down on their expenses because  
 10 they don't earn enough to even stay open? Then  
 11 employees are laid off and forced to look for  
 12 another job, possibly having to go on Welfare for  
 13 awhile.  
 14 What about Homestead Hospital? Due to  
 15 the economy, it's losing millions of dollars. If it  
 16 closes, then where is the next hospital? Kendall?  
 17 How long is it going to take to get to the hospital  
 18 when there's an emergency? Where are these  
 19 employees going to go?  
 20 In conclusion, it's all a question of  
 21 common sense. It's a question of where the future  
 22 of this community is without the reliever airport,  
 23 and I support the development of the base of this  
 24 airport.  
 25 Thank you.

1 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Frank  
 2 Jackalone.  
 3 000312 FRANK JACKALONE: I want to show you a  
 4 map.  
 5 I want to start off by saying my name is  
 6 Frank Jackalone. I am the director of the Florida  
 7 Office of the Sierra Club. I'm speaking today on  
 8 behalf of the National Club representing over  
 9 600,000 members of the Sierra Club who enjoy hiking  
 10 and canoeing and kayaking and bicycling and all  
 11 sorts of recreation through the national parks of  
 12 this country.  
 13 I want to say first that your goals for  
 14 the SEIS, for transferring the property from the air  
 15 base talk first about supporting local plans for  
 16 economic revitalization of South Florida. Let's  
 17 address that very quickly and find out what the  
 18 facts are.  
 19 The facts, according to the unemployment  
 20 statistics for the City of Homestead from the U.S.  
 21 Department of Labor Bureau and Labor Statistics show  
 22 that, yes, we had an unemployment problem, it peaked  
 23 at 11.1 percent in 1992, but ever since then, each  
 24 year it's gone down and down and down to where both  
 25 the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of

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1 Labor now say that unemployment in Homestead is at  
2 5.5 percent less than that of Dade County. It's  
3 less than Homestead. Can Homestead use a boost?  
4 Yes, it still can use a boost. That's what the  
5 mixed plan would be getting at.

6 Secondly, you talk about protecting  
7 Biscayne and Everglades National Parks. I will say,  
8 number one, in your SEIS, you show a mountain of  
9 evidence that there will be great increased  
10 pollution, particularly in Biscayne National Park,  
11 as a result of placing the airport in that location.

12 Secondly, we have the problem with  
13 sprawl. And Johnathan Almond is showing you the  
14 map. You see in the upper portion of the map Miami  
15 International Airport, and the sprawl in the city of  
16 the urban area that surrounds it, and then you see  
17 the line where sprawl stops, in Everglades National  
18 Park.

19 Homestead Air Base down toward the  
20 bottom, in an area that is agricultural and somewhat  
21 pristine going down to the Keys, what some would  
22 have us do is not just recover from the hurricane,  
23 but to develop that portion that is undeveloped, to  
24 repeat what happens around the Miami International  
25 Airport, around the whole area.

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1 I'm running out of time, but I want to  
2 say, for the record, that the noise provisions, in  
3 particular, the noise provisions, the data I believe  
4 is suspect, and your conclusions are cooked  
5 otherwise, and I would be glad to give you more data  
6 about that.

7 And, finally, I want to say that the  
8 American people will not stand for Yellow Stone  
9 National Park having an airport right next to it.  
10 They will not stand for the Grand Canyon having an  
11 airport next to it, or countless other major parks.  
12 And the Everglades National Park and the Florida  
13 Marine Sanctuary and Biscayne National Park, I'll  
14 tell you, the 600,000 members of the Sierra Club,  
15 the American people will stop that from happening if  
16 you don't.

17 COLONEL McSHANE: Dan Spotts.

18 000313 DAN SPOTTS: Yes, Dan Spotts. My  
19 company is Miami Aqua-Culture. We are an  
20 export/import of perishable cargo. We are opposed  
21 to a commercial airport in Homestead because it  
22 would force us to split our operations and transfer  
23 in between. It is a bad idea for our business.

24 Although, the Dade County Aviation Department  
25 has various political reports saying we need more

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1 airports, I have yet to hear a single airline, no  
2 Fed Ex is here tonight, no United, American, a  
3 single distributor show up and say that they  
4 desperately need more airline space. They don't  
5 require it, certainly not in Homestead because they  
6 would be in the same position going back and forth  
7 between the two.

8 Repeated efforts to re-energize  
9 Opa-Locka was lost. The quoted reason from Dade  
10 County Aviation Department has been the trade with  
11 Brazil and Venezuela is way down, that they're  
12 building a fourth runway to MIA, and Fort Lauderdale  
13 is underutilized. We don't need more cargo space.  
14 That was in the Miami Herald. Which is the truth  
15 between those two?

16 It is important to remember after  
17 Hurricane Andrew a lot of jobs were lost, especially  
18 airline trained people. That Major Paisley came up  
19 with a project by signing a no-bid project with a  
20 previous non-existing group of developers, but the  
21 law requires that this transfer have an environment  
22 impact statement so that we can have these kind of  
23 informed public discussions. People know what's  
24 going on. The major helpers knew the law, but the  
25 first report was so pathetic and inadequate that it

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1 could not conform to the law. The reason that we  
2 have spent another seven years, and millions of  
3 dollars for the SEIS is not because of  
4 environmentalists, those bad tree lovers, it's  
5 because the airport developers try to spread  
6 suburban sprawl. All we want is an opportunity to  
7 discuss this.

8 Now seven years later, unemployment in  
9 Homestead has been said is close to 5 and a half  
10 percent, and property values are way up.

11 An inexperienced HABDI will depend on  
12 the Air Force public transportation contracts to  
13 build this new airport. The Hoover team has built  
14 environmentally safe aquarium based projects that  
15 revitalized Boston, they revitalized Downtown  
16 Baltimore, Chatinuga. Collier resources has had  
17 many years of experience redeveloping military  
18 bases. They want to make Homestead a destination,  
19 not an after thought.

20 When will people start helping  
21 themselves. When Dade County wants to build a dump,  
22 they look to South Dade. When they want to build a  
23 power plants, they look to South Dade. When they  
24 didn't want a racetrack in Downtown Miami, they move  
25 to South Dade, but they don't want a noisy airport

1 in Opa-Locka or Coral Gables, they move to South  
 2 Dade.

3 The conclusion to remember, the Air  
 4 Force and the FAA were called upon to do the SBIS  
 5 from the Department of Interior because they wanted  
 6 an airport. As a biologist I know this report is  
 7 somewhat slanted because of that. This used to be a  
 8 super fund site and the Air Force did a great job of  
 9 cleaning it up. Why pay millions to fix it and then  
 10 turn it back to the airport?

11 Thank you very much.

12 000314 AUDREY PITTERMAN: My name is Audrey  
 13 Pitterman. I'm proud to say that I'm a member of  
 14 the Red Pass. I am an environmentalist. I would  
 15 like to put a human face on this issue. Last year I  
 16 read a statement from a proponent of the commercial  
 17 airport at Homestead that said: "Is it Americans in  
 18 inevitable right to have a quiet nature experience?  
 19 And if so, why did you put a national park in the  
 20 middle of an urban area?" I was really appalled by  
 21 that statement because it showed such a fundamental  
 22 misunderstanding of nature. I have the luxury of  
 23 taking people to the Everglades, particularly people  
 24 from the urban corp.

25 In December of last year, I took

1 families from Liberty City, parents and children,  
 2 and I'll tell you, they were amazed that there was  
 3 this resource so close, so unspoiled in their  
 4 backyards. I remember one parent looking at a fish  
 5 and observing, oh my God, everything is so quiet,  
 6 even the fish, they're not jumping around, they're  
 7 not scared like in the urban areas. Another parent  
 8 said, that's because they're here and they're  
 9 protected. Nobody is trying to catch them, there's  
 10 no sense of danger that there is in the urban area.

11 And so I say all of this to you to say  
 12 that this push to put a commercial airport between  
 13 two national parks really reflects the lack of  
 14 information in the main stead ways of our  
 15 communities about what the national parks stand for.  
 16 They are the last back strips of woodlands in  
 17 America and they belong to the American people.

18 I was at a meeting yesterday where I  
 19 heard in an Everglades report that the Everglades  
 20 National Park, Biscayne National Park and Florida  
 21 Keys combined put five billion dollars in the  
 22 economy.

23 We all know that airport is a polluted  
 24 facility, noise pollution, environmental pollution.  
 25 Why are we acting in the year 2000 posing the health

1 of our community, the health of our environment  
 2 against jobs?

3 There is a new paradigm emerging,  
 4 people, that says we can use the environment, we can  
 5 boost the environment to provide jobs. I fully  
 6 support those people in Homestead and in those areas  
 7 that they need jobs to support their families, but I  
 8 say to you, the mixed-use proposal or any other  
 9 proposal than that toxic polluted, noise polluted  
 10 airport, which eliminates the purpose of the natural  
 11 park, which is objectivity for peace, quiet and  
 12 solitude, which are abandoned if you have an airport  
 13 there. I say to you, don't do that, please.

14 Thank you.

15 COLONEL McSHANE: We're going to take a  
 16 ten-minute recess for the benefit of the court  
 17 reporter.

18 Kim Anderson.

19 000315 KIM ANDERSON: Thank you. I am Kim  
 20 Anderson. I thank you for the opportunity to come  
 21 tonight. We have many facts and figures that  
 22 occurred throughout the days' testimony. There are  
 23 many things I think you're missing in this. There's  
 24 a couple of points I would like to address.

25 We heard things about promises. If we

1 look back in the history of Florida, we know that  
 2 the first governor was elected on the promise of  
 3 draining that darn swamp. Now, here we are, many  
 4 years later, knowing that we're in the eve of  
 5 destruction. This is a systematic approach. We  
 6 must understand that what is going on down here in  
 7 Biscayne and Everglades National Park and the water  
 8 sources, the water shed as a whole. Talk about the  
 9 socio-economics, look at our fisheries. It is  
 10 proven that Biscayne Bay is a feeder to fisheries  
 11 throughout the Keys.

12 We also understand, this goes to the  
 13 economics of the Keys. Our Keys' reefs are the  
 14 number one dive spot in the world, and you may ask  
 15 yourself, why does that have to do with Homestead  
 16 Airport? We know that the sediments, the things  
 17 that come from the air, what's released from  
 18 hydrocarbons and they go into sediments, the bend of  
 19 the community, it goes up the system.

20 We also know that what happens up stream  
 21 effects our coral reefs down stream, that's why  
 22 we've integrated task forces that's representative  
 23 of all the communities. Problem is, there's a lot  
 24 of evidence we would like to see out there. The  
 25 sound information was not as much that still needs

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1 to be done. I don't think there's enough on that.

2 We understand there's two national  
3 parks there, national parks have a much different  
4 ambiance. The national park system has a mandate  
5 for visitor experience, and the visitor experience  
6 is more than sight, it's sound, that's an important  
7 aspect to occur today, to exist.

8 I'll end in conclusion, we support a  
9 mixed-use concept. Air Base as we know it, growing  
10 is not compatible, and this is a nationwide issue.  
11 It isn't worth to have our local constituents  
12 weighing in on this. This is a national issue as  
13 well.

14 Thank you.

15 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Scott  
16 Socha.

17 000316 SCOTT SOCHA: I'm a student at  
18 Miami-Dade Honors Department in the Wilson Campus,  
19 and I moved here a little over a year ago from  
20 Alaska.

21 I try to think of many things I could  
22 say today and it seems like a lot of people said  
23 things I wanted to say. You can't really put a  
24 price tag on the spiritual benefit of natural parks  
25 for the people, for humanity. I stand for humanity.

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1 And what is going to be sacred ground. When are  
2 people going to put up boarders, and say, no more,  
3 this is sacred ground, and we're at a point in  
4 society this is crucial.

5 50 years ago, 100 years ago we could  
6 afford to make mistakes, but not anymore. We're at  
7 a cruciate point. I think what happened with the  
8 Everglades with the draining of the swamp there?  
9 This would add insult to injury. I think Florida  
10 residents and national residents should say, "no  
11 more." And that's all I'm saying.

12 Thanks.

13 COLONEL McSHANE: Blanca Mesa. Next  
14 speaker will be Charles Munroe.

15 000317 BLANCA MESA: Thank you. I'm Blanca  
16 Mesa. I just want to say a few things to the SEIS.  
17 Regarding the mitigation efforts, they say this  
18 airport can be done with extensive mitigation  
19 efforts. I just want to point out what they are and  
20 what needs to be done about it. Before the Air  
21 Force crosses over, I want you to realize we're in  
22 Miami-Dade County, a lot of promises can be made,  
23 but they won't be completed, so I want them assured.

24 Two studies that were supposed to be  
25 completed long ago, two years ago, Miami-Dade County

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1 promised to complete an ag-protection site to  
2 protect the agricultural lands in South Dade, they  
3 promised to complete the Biscayne Bay Water  
4 Management plant, both of which were vehemently  
5 opposed by a very preponderance of this airport.  
6 These are land-use plans that are supposed to  
7 protect our water shed, protect our agricultural  
8 land. The Farm Bureau and its principle people are  
9 objecting to this. To date this has not been done.  
10 The administration of Miami-Dade County has not  
11 shown the leadership to get these done.

12 Another thing that was supposed to  
13 happen was buffer land. That's one of key portion  
14 of this mitigation plan. I want to tell you UDB is  
15 east of this airport. There's land in agricultural  
16 land. That line is not a solid line. If you're  
17 depending on that line to stay to protect the bay to  
18 acted as mitigation. The UDB has shifted  
19 continuously in Dade County in the past 20 years,  
20 particularly in the West and Kendall, it will  
21 continue. It is, in fact, an urban expansion area,  
22 exactly where you say the lands remain agricultural.  
23 That's not true. In fact, everything the Farm  
24 Bureau wants to do is protect that land from being  
25 developed.

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1 There are no plans and no funds  
2 identified for these mitigation efforts. I would  
3 like to see that identified in the SEIS.

4 I also want to say that everyone's  
5 talking about balancing the environment and economy.  
6 It's impossible to balance when on one side of the  
7 balancing scale is a polluting, industrial complex  
8 such as an airport doesn't make any sense. Mr.  
9 Mayor Penelas who's my boss, I work for Miami-Dade  
10 County, has said that in the last 40 years the  
11 military airport coexisted with the environment, the  
12 economy and the Everglades and Biscayne National  
13 Park has flourished, but he's very misinformed. He  
14 needs explained to him that, in fact, the Everglades  
15 are dying. That's why they're undergoing a  
16 multi-million dollar restoration efforts. In  
17 Biscayne Bay, what the military left behind was 15  
18 million plus in environmental toxins, all from the  
19 airport. So I don't think that's a coexistence that  
20 we can be proud of.

21 And the military contaminated canals,  
22 it's full of toxins and floating into the bay and  
23 nobody can figure out how to stop it. That's  
24 something we should proceed with before another  
25 airport, when we have toxins the military left

1 behind.  
 2 So I don't think that when the Farm  
 3 Bureau talks about expenses and Dade County talks  
 4 about promises, that we can rely on those at this  
 5 time. And I would not support this airport until we  
 6 have this mitigation and funding in place and we've  
 7 really studied what Dade County has done in the  
 8 past.

9 Thank you.

10 COLONEL McSHANE: Manuel Ortiz after Mr.  
 11 Munroe.

12 000318 CHARLES MUNROE: Good evening. I'm  
 13 Charles Monroe. And I'm here to represent not only  
 14 myself, but members of the Biscayne Yacht Club,  
 15 whose members have been enjoying Biscayne Bay for  
 16 the last 113 years.

17 I live in Miami primarily because of  
 18 Biscayne Bay, because I enjoy it, and I not only  
 19 enjoy the waters, but I enjoy the quietness and the  
 20 solitude that the bay offers. And, I mean, I've can  
 21 live in Fort Lauderdale or Orlando, but Biscayne Bay  
 22 is the unique thing that makes Miami special. So  
 23 I'm concerned about the welfare of Biscayne Bay.  
 24 And I go there and I think visitors go there because  
 25 not only the beautiful water and the environment,

1 but because of the quietness and the serenity, and  
 2 as our community gets larger and larger and more and  
 3 more people come here, we need quiet places to renew  
 4 ourselves.

5 I think it would be a disaster to build  
 6 an airport and then five or ten or 20 years from now  
 7 and say, I'm reading the Miami Herald or something,  
 8 we made a mistake, we underestimated the amount of  
 9 noise and pollution that this airport is going to  
 10 create, and by that time it's too late. We don't  
 11 just decide to bulldoze the airport down and plant  
 12 trees.

13 So I do believe that we have an  
 14 alternative that's available to us, to give jobs and  
 15 help to South Dade, although I heard unemployment is  
 16 not in dire trouble. So I urge the Commission to  
 17 please consider an alternative to anything but an  
 18 airport.

19 Thank you very much.

20 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Manuel  
 21 Ortiz.

22 000319 MANUEL ORTIZ: I would like to first  
 23 thank the Air Force for this opportunity to be  
 24 heard. I'm a Dade County resident. I support the  
 25 program for an option, because I think it is the

1 only option to maximize and promote the economy.

2 I trust and support federal studies who  
 3 have found a commercial airport would not  
 4 substantially alter the environment. That being  
 5 said, I am of the opinion that a plan that would  
 6 inject 38,000 jobs and 1 million into the economy to  
 7 a community who's in desperate need of economic  
 8 development is needed.

9 I support the airport because it  
 10 addresses the economic, environmental concerns, and  
 11 the truth is, South Dade needs these jobs. The  
 12 county needs an airport and it means over a million  
 13 dollars in earnings and the airport wouldn't harm  
 14 the environment.

15 Thank you.

16 COLONEL McSHANE: Nadine Patrice  
 17 followed by John Spillman.

18 000320 NADINE PATRICE: Hello, my name is  
 19 Nadine Patrice, and I'm with the organization called  
 20 Operation Green Leaf. We provide environmental  
 21 education for changing communities. Although, jobs  
 22 would be a great thing for our community, but I  
 23 don't believe at the expense of a natural resources.

24 I also want to say that I heard somebody  
 25 say that everybody in Homestead is for the airport,

1 I believe they are incorrect. There is a farm  
 2 association, and there's at least 200 households in  
 3 this group that are totally opposed to this airport.  
 4 And the other thing I want to say is that we need to  
 5 learn from the other parts of the world where we're  
 6 pushing jobs, jobs, jobs at the expense of the  
 7 environment.

8 The Rain Forest, they want to cut down  
 9 all the trees and they were talking about jobs,  
 10 jobs, jobs, look at the results today? We cannot  
 11 afford to make the same mistakes, by cutting all the  
 12 trees all over the world and the Rain Forest, now  
 13 you can see how our climate has been affected. We  
 14 have floods, tons of people are dying. We have to  
 15 learn from the past, because if we make this  
 16 mistake, like the other gentleman said, it will be  
 17 very difficult to try to do the clean up. So I urge  
 18 you to listen to us and we totally oppose the  
 19 airport.

20 We have to learn from the other areas  
 21 and not make this mistake, but it will be a mistake  
 22 and cost us too much money to try to clean up.  
 23 Let's not make a mistake from the other part of the  
 24 world. There are other alternative to jobs.

25 Thank you.

COMMENTS

1 COLONEL McSHANE: John Spillman.  
 2 000321 JOHN SPILLMAN: Thank you. My name is  
 3 John Spillman, I'm the chairman of the Aviation  
 4 Alliance of Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.  
 5 Two years ago, the Greater Miami Chamber  
 6 of Commerce unanimously urged that former Homestead  
 7 Air Force Base be converted to a military/civilian  
 8 use for scheduled cargo and passenger air service.  
 9 Tonight I'm here to reiterate that view,  
 10 that the Chamber supports the conversion of the base  
 11 and returning the land to Metro Dade County.  
 12 Further, the Chamber supports the  
 13 development of the land in a manner which can create  
 14 meaningful employment and investment opportunities  
 15 in the context of safeguarding our national parks.  
 16 Thank you.  
 17 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Julie  
 18 Romero.  
 19 000322 JULIE ROMERO: Good evening, Colonel,  
 20 and everyone that's involved with us. Good evening  
 21 to South Dade. I am here representing three hats,  
 22 one hat as a business owner, as a reality check to  
 23 what South Dade is all about. Second I'm here as an  
 24 environmentalist, and third I'm here as a mother.  
 25 First as a business owner, I am the past

1 chair of the City of Homestead Chamber of Commerce  
 2 and I'm also the past chair for the Florida  
 3 Employment Advisory Council. For those people who  
 4 keep quoting numbers on unemployment in South Dade,  
 5 don't quote numbers, come to South Dade. For those  
 6 of you who quote number on businesses and our  
 7 economy, don't quote the numbers. Come to South  
 8 Dade.  
 9 If you drive down US-1 and you visit  
 10 Naranja, and you see those strip malls empty and you  
 11 go to your friend's home who have lost their  
 12 businesses, lost their homes, their children have  
 13 been adversely affected because of the closing of  
 14 the Homestead Base, and because of what happened in  
 15 Hurricane Andrew, and our economy. That's reality.  
 16 As a business owner we see our friends  
 17 trying to struggle to make it there. I am an  
 18 environmentalist, I'm here to tell you that South  
 19 Dade, we the people of South Dade have maintained  
 20 our national parks. We're the ones who have been  
 21 the in-keepers, we have been the ones who have been  
 22 taking care of it.  
 23 And these environmentalists who sit here  
 24 today talking and telling us what to do with it,  
 25 we're the ones who live there every day. We're the

1 ones that drink the water, we're the ones that take  
 2 the air in. We have our children growing up in that  
 3 area, and we are the ones that don't want anything  
 4 to happen to it. But at the same time as an  
 5 environmentalist, you know what guys, save the  
 6 humans, humans have habitat too. We need jobs. And  
 7 with those jobs, we need to maintain our families.  
 8 What we need, we need the jobs to be able to go to  
 9 the stores and shop.  
 10 I invite the 600,000 environmentalists  
 11 to shop in our stores, to eat in our restaurants, to  
 12 go to the grocery store, then we wouldn't have a  
 13 problem, but you guys fly in and you fly out, and  
 14 you tell us what to do with our place. We fought to  
 15 keep Homestead Air Base there when they wanted to  
 16 close it.  
 17 Then, as a mother, I tell the Federal  
 18 government the following, I have raised two children  
 19 and have a third one, to respect the laws, to  
 20 respect federal government. We were promised by two  
 21 presidents that we would be the state of the art  
 22 model to the nation of a commercial airport. So I  
 23 taught my kids that I keep my promises. Does the  
 24 federal government keep theirs?  
 25 Thank you.

1 COLONEL McSHANE: Ron Rosenberg.  
 2 000323 RON ROSENBERG: I don't think 600,000  
 3 people would come unless there were parks to come  
 4 to. So I think we can work together. I don't think  
 5 we have to yell at each other.  
 6 I was born and raised in Florida, I  
 7 lived in Miami and Homestead. And my dad raised me  
 8 to go out in the Everglades, Biscayne National Park,  
 9 go on a canoe and we would spend weekends and  
 10 recharge our batteries. I've re-moved to Miami. My  
 11 wife and I live now in downtown. I work as a lawyer  
 12 for the Justice Department. At the end of the week  
 13 I'm frazzled, because this is a real tough city to  
 14 live in, and I still need the Everglades and  
 15 Biscayne National Park to recharge my batteries. My  
 16 wife and I hope to have kids in the next few years.  
 17 Please consider Fort Lauderdale as an alternative  
 18 airport and the mixed-use plan.  
 19 Thank you.  
 20 COLONEL McSHANE: Susannah Troner  
 21 followed by Marcela McGrath.  
 22 000324 SUSANNAH TRONER: Good evening. I'm  
 23 also speaking as a concerned citizen who has lived  
 24 here almost all of my life. I would like to re-do  
 25 the words of a scientist, Meadows.

1 We talk about jobs, taxes, quantities  
 2 and, therefore, legitimate considerations. Other  
 3 considerations seem not quite legitimate to talk  
 4 about, because they are qualities, it's tough to  
 5 stand up and tell me in town meetings and talk about  
 6 health, beauty and community, it just isn't done.  
 7 In fact, qualities are very real and are ultimately  
 8 what count. Community development decisions on  
 9 behalf a community, the land and the future, we have  
 10 to use a higher human faculty than the simple  
 11 ability to count. We have to ask quality questions.  
 12 So what quality questions can we ask with regards to  
 13 this issue? How about we meet the goals of  
 14 re-developing the base in a way that benefits the  
 15 economy of South Miami-Dade without it impacting the  
 16 environment and our national parks. Something  
 17 that's compatible with the unprecedented restoration  
 18 efforts being directed at Everglades. Would you  
 19 really want to go fishing, camping or sailing with  
 20 plane after plane swimming overhead? What are all  
 21 those tourists coming down to see after all? Quiet,  
 22 tranquility, beauty and wildlife. If choosing to  
 23 build a commercial airport leads us to an unknown  
 24 future, the operations estimates can be contained in  
 25 the SEIS and are very uncertain.

1 To compound this problem is the fact  
 2 that to the best of my knowledge the FAA cannot  
 3 limit the number of airports built due to interstate  
 4 commerce, and this lack of control is frankly to me  
 5 a scary thing.  
 6 The mixed-use alternative, on the other  
 7 hand, allows us to enhance our economy without such  
 8 negative environmental impacts, what we call a win  
 9 win solution. That's just common sense.  
 10 So I ask you to use your courage, use  
 11 your common sense, and to show vision when you make  
 12 your decision.  
 13 Please ask yourself quality questions  
 14 and come up with a quality decision, do not convey  
 15 the property for a commercial airport.  
 16 COLONEL McSHANE: Marcela McGrath.  
 17 After that Santiago Leon.  
 18 000325 MARCELA MCGRATH: Good evening, my name  
 19 is Marcela McGrath. I live in Miami Lakes, which is  
 20 far from Homestead. However, I enjoy the  
 21 Everglades. I enjoy the national parks. I enjoy  
 22 the tranquility and the peace and quiet, and we  
 23 think nothing on a Saturday or Sunday to just drive  
 24 down Krome Avenue with low traffic and go far, just  
 25 to spend a couple of hours either bicycling or

1 walking or relaxing. We refresh ourselves and we  
 2 come back rested and ready for the week.  
 3 I know that the City of Homestead was  
 4 severely affected by Hurricane Andrew. I know that  
 5 it needs jobs and industry, but if we're here for  
 6 the best long-term use of the area that the Air  
 7 Force and government wanted to give to the county,  
 8 the best use would be the mixed-use of the Collier  
 9 proposal, it would not give the air pollution, it  
 10 would not given increased people, traffic,  
 11 buildings, roads, it would revitalize the strip  
 12 malls.  
 13 Last summer we went vacationing in North  
 14 Carolina, and we visited Great Smoky National Park  
 15 and we crossed over in 35 miles an hour, there was  
 16 nothing, nothing, park, animals, we saw bears, we  
 17 saw everything, but we come out of the park and  
 18 we're confronted by this city smog, with lights,  
 19 with noise, with people, with cars, with everything  
 20 there. It was awful. It was shocking, and I can  
 21 only imagine our relatives and our Biscayne National  
 22 Park that people come to see. I don't want them to  
 23 go and have that same experience. I want them to  
 24 have the experience of going to a rural area. If  
 25 Homestead can be benefited by having the

1 Collier/Hoover proposal, it will have jobs, it will  
 2 have industry, and our main industry is tourism.  
 3 They are proposing things for tourism, golf resorts.  
 4 I believe that we don't need to destroy  
 5 the natural beauty of Homestead and the surrounding  
 6 areas, the Redlands, Naranja, Florida City by  
 7 approving the commercial airport expansion. I  
 8 believe that we should do the best and use it for  
 9 the best to keep our tourism growing and to keep our  
 10 tourism which brings the dollars into the country.  
 11 I live in Miami Lakes and I know people  
 12 from Miami Lakes that say that is not a good  
 13 alternative. Opa-Locks, it was used when Hurricane  
 14 Andrew struck the area, and believe me, I'd much  
 15 rather have the noise over my house than all the  
 16 national parks, because the national parks are for  
 17 all of us, millions of us, not just the city, the  
 18 people that live in the city right there.  
 19 Thank you.  
 20 COLONEL McSHANE: Mr. Leon.  
 21 000326 SANTIAGO LEON: My name is Santiago  
 22 Leon, I'm Hispanic, active member of Greater Miami  
 23 Chamber of Commerce. I must say nobody ever asked  
 24 me what I thought about the Homestead Airport and  
 25 the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. I can tell

# COMMENTS

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1 you that the opinion of the Greater Miami Chamber of  
2 Commerce would not have been unanimous on the  
3 subject.

4 First of all, procedural objections, I  
5 think the Air Force should be very circumspect about  
6 his partner as the lead agency in the Environmental  
7 Impact Statement, specifically the Federal Aviation  
8 Administration. The FAA has trouble leasing the  
9 interior environment of an airplane, much less the  
10 environmental impact of an airport.

11 Another thing is why take the operations  
12 of the Air Force Base as a base line. It was the  
13 Air Force Base that chased the Flamingos away from  
14 Flamingo.

15 We would not be talking about an airport  
16 at all but for a sweetheart deal, a give away to a  
17 small group of politically connected developers who  
18 got a deal on a no-bid contract for free land.

19 As far as I'm concerned, to give those  
20 people anything would be perpetuated government paid  
21 contract, which is what we've had in Dade County.

22 I urge you also to follow the language,  
23 you'll notice the Homestead Airport they're talking  
24 about is a quote unquote, reliever airport. Does  
25 that sound like a half penny sales tax for those of

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1 you who live out here. This is a great big busy  
2 airport, you can't have it both ways.

3 The same way with the Environmental  
4 Impact Statement, no significant impact, no  
5 substantial impact, nothing significantly  
6 frightened. If you really need an airport, we  
7 should do it the old fashioned way, we should go out  
8 and buy the land and build an airport. It's been  
9 observed that you don't see the Federal Express  
10 people down here worried about what's happening.  
11 Why is that? Maybe they don't need an airport.  
12 Maybe this airport would be a gigantic boon dock, a  
13 lot of asphalt with no airplanes.

14 Next, spending millions to fix the  
15 result of past projects. We have been in Florida  
16 spending billions to fix the results of past  
17 projects which were thought to have no significant  
18 impact, reliever canals and such, okay, I can see  
19 doing exactly the same thing. We've previously  
20 observed that we're going to do exactly the same  
21 thing with this.

22 As to the question of jobs and  
23 environment and the airport, there seems to be jobs  
24 as an issue, the environment as an issue, the  
25 airport is an issue. If we need an airport, we

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1 should think about where we should put one.

2 And, finally, I think that the other  
3 proposal sounds like a reason why people would want  
4 to go to South Dade. I can see real synergies  
5 between parks and the aquarium kind of development,  
6 an environmentally educationally attractive  
7 environment that would create more jobs, more  
8 economic development than any of us can imagine.

9 Thank you.

10 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Nancy Lee  
11 followed by Carrie Cleland.

12 000327 NANCY LEE: Hi. I just wanted to  
13 mention that even though they need jobs in  
14 Washington D.C., they're not putting a Home Depot  
15 next to the Washington Monument.

16 The past few nights you've heard the  
17 director of Miami-Dade Aviation Department speak  
18 about the Department's wonderful environmental  
19 record. I would like to submit to you that that  
20 picture is not as rosy as you would be led to  
21 believe.

22 The County's Environmental Department  
23 produces an annual report, which I would like to  
24 submit to you, documenting violations of  
25 environmental regulations at government facilities

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1 and properties in Miami-Dade County. The December,  
2 '99 issue of that report indicates that the Aviation  
3 Department's wonderful environmental record includes  
4 57 sites with violations, many of which involve  
5 ground or ground water contamination.

6 In addition to the dozens of violations  
7 at MIA, these violations also exist at Homestead  
8 General Airport, Opa-Locka Airport and Tamiami  
9 Airport. I don't want to imply that the Aviation  
10 Department is directly responsible for every case  
11 listed, as there are a number of cases where former  
12 airport attendants contributed to the contamination  
13 and the Department is stuck with the clean up, and I  
14 don't want to imply that the Department is doing  
15 nothing to address the existing contamination  
16 issues.

17 However, it is the Department's  
18 responsibility to provide some oversight to prevent  
19 incidents, such as those documented here from  
20 happening in first course.

21 To my knowledge, the SEIS did not  
22 involve a review of the environmental record of the  
23 Aviation Department, the agency that would be  
24 playing a major role in everyday operation  
25 management of air pump facility. The years worth of

1 records are sitting downtown for review and the  
 2 compliance issue or lack thereof is clear. I think  
 3 this needs to be given serious thought.  
 4 The days of being reactive have to stop.  
 5 In this case, the ability to respond to problems and  
 6 address environmental concerns after an incident has  
 7 occurred and nothing is to be impressed on.  
 8 Mechanisms need to be in place to prevent such  
 9 occurrences, maybe the Department recognizes that  
 10 now, maybe they don't. Based upon what I see before  
 11 me, I'm not willing to take that chance.  
 12 In closing, I would like to point out  
 13 that the Air Force is still spending a lot of money  
 14 to clean up and monitor contaminated sites at the  
 15 former Homestead Air Force Base, items which are  
 16 also identified in this report. When that job is  
 17 finally completed, is this the agency you want to  
 18 turn this property over to? I hope if you consider  
 19 this, its compliance records, you will conclude that  
 20 the answer to my question is no.  
 21 Thank you.  
 22 And I live six miles from MIA and I can  
 23 hear the planes taking off.  
 24 000328 CARRIE CLELAND: My dad and my brother  
 25 over there, dad was in the Air Force, he was a tail

1 gunner over Italy. If he were alive today, he would  
 2 be here with us and his kids. He's the one who  
 3 first showed us the Everglades, when we were little  
 4 of course.  
 5 I used to be a flight attendant, and I  
 6 just love planes. I would like to add my voice for  
 7 my former passengers, there's a tremendous number of  
 8 people who travel here specifically to enjoy our  
 9 unique environmental assets. Those people of course  
 10 are not here to tell you how important our wildlife  
 11 and health to the Everglades are to them. Remember  
 12 that those folks, also known as tourists, also need  
 13 jobs. Let's protect our irreplaceable assets.  
 14 Wildlife is not replaceable and extinct.  
 15 Concrete, as my brother points out, is  
 16 always the last crop planted. Jobs are replaceable,  
 17 ask anyone who used to work for Eastern or FP&L,  
 18 it's not that easy to get a good airline job, good  
 19 jobs come to those who get good educations.  
 20 One thing, as you deliberate, please  
 21 consider your opinions seven generations into the  
 22 future.  
 23 Thank you.  
 24 COLONEL McSHANE: Richard Friedman.  
 25 000329 RICHARD FRIEDMAN: Thank you, Colonel.

1 I'm Richard Friedman. I'm here as an individual.  
 2 I've lived in this area 41 years. I've lived in  
 3 Pine Crest for almost 30 years. That's about 15  
 4 miles north of Homestead. It seems to me we're tail  
 5 wagging the dog here.  
 6 In the last 40, 50 years they've done  
 7 very little for Homestead, which is a town of 10,000  
 8 people and Florida City which is a town maybe of  
 9 7,000 people. So I don't see that an environmental  
 10 treasure, which is an international treasurer should  
 11 be impaired in order to give jobs to two towns of  
 12 10,000 and 7,000 where Dade County, I might add, has  
 13 done the following three things for them: They've  
 14 given them a homeless shelter, they've put up a  
 15 baseball park, where there's no team to play  
 16 baseball in a park. And they have given them a  
 17 Homestead Raceway, which is a NASCAR track. So  
 18 those three things have happened in Homestead in the  
 19 last eight years.  
 20 The fact is that when we talk about  
 21 South Dade, we talk about Flagler Street south,  
 22 that's a million people, we are not talking about  
 23 Flagler Street south, we're talking about south of  
 24 211th Street, from a shopping center which was  
 25 rebuilt, an Auto Nation Automobile place that was

1 built in South Dade. A lot of things have occurred  
 2 in South Dade.  
 3 You destroy the Everglades, you're going  
 4 to lose your tourism business. It's important. We  
 5 are trustees of nature. We have a spaceship earth  
 6 and we have to protect what we can on earth.  
 7 The fact is that 15 year projections,  
 8 anybody can make any kinds of projections in 15  
 9 years. What I do know, is there's 25 locations for  
 10 potential airports, three are smack dab in the  
 11 middle of the Everglades, and there's a blank card  
 12 that shows that 680,000 flights by 2015, 235,000  
 13 more with this one runway, one runway, not two,  
 14 which would be 915,000 capacity in the year 2015.  
 15 That same blank card says in 15 years will be  
 16 932,000. That means, if you go ahead and build this  
 17 alleged airport, the capacity of that airport and  
 18 MIA will be under the capacity needed in 15 years,  
 19 then I ask, what about the other 17,000 flights?  
 20 Are they going to build another runway, three  
 21 runways, five runways? There's seven runways now in  
 22 South Florida. So the fact is even based upon on  
 23 the county's numbers, you have a lack of capacity  
 24 2015. What do you do then? And you've mitigated  
 25 the Everglades. The word mitigation, there has been

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1 a problem with mitigate the problem, obviously,  
2 we'll anticipate we'll have an environmental problem  
3 because we have to mitigate it. Therefore, we're  
4 saying we're going to screw it up. We have to make  
5 it less of a screw up, and the people who are doing  
6 the screw up for us are the same people that right  
7 now politically were trying to get rid of the  
8 running the airport, because right now we want to  
9 make it into an independent authority, and get rid  
10 of the people in Dade County from running an airport  
11 because of the corruption and the stakes.

12 Thank you.

13 COLONEL McSHANE: Joy Roselyn Lumby  
14 followed by Carlos Golts.

15 000330 JOY ROSELYN LUMBLY: Good evening, my  
16 name is Joy Roselyn Lumby, I'm a long time resident  
17 of South Florida. I first came in sight with  
18 Everglades National Park through environmentalists  
19 Frank and Audrey Pitterman of Earthwise Productions,  
20 Inc. We traveled there for the first time with  
21 Audrey, other adults and children from our  
22 communities. It was a peaceful and amazingly  
23 wonderful world.

24 Speaking as a person of the earth, I  
25 hold the earth to be a sacred place. There's only

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1 one earth. We have few places left where we can  
2 meditate in peace on what the creator gave us as a  
3 gift void of man's selfish greedy, and  
4 self-indulging exploitation. The Everglades National  
5 Park is such a place, there is a place for peace.

6 My daughter says, we as Floridians must  
7 stand up for Florida, for the Everglades, we live  
8 here, we drink our water here. I am against the  
9 airport being built in Homestead. The indigenous  
10 peoples once observed themselves destruct the earth  
11 for the lack of vision. Look at America. It is  
12 self-destructive for the lack of vision. If this  
13 airport is built, one day we'll self-destruct for  
14 the lack of vision. We'll say, we should have  
15 listened. My mother always says, if you don't hear,  
16 you'll feel.

17 Thank you.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Rock Simpson.

19 000331 ROCK SIMPSON: First of all, I'd like to  
20 go on record supporting the redevelopment of the  
21 Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport.

22 I think I'm more attune to speak on a  
23 lot of issues than most of the people here. I was  
24 born and raised here, been here 56 years. The Air  
25 Force Base was the foundation and stability of

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1 Homestead and the surrounding areas. If it's  
2 rebuilt and to a sound environmentally sensitive  
3 community, it's going to help and form the  
4 foundation of redevelopment of that area and provide  
5 jobs for thousands of people who are in need of  
6 those jobs now.

7 Also, conservationists who speak here  
8 aren't even the true issues here in South Florida.  
9 They need to redirect their issues. Along with  
10 being a resident here, I'm a camp owner at the Big  
11 Cypress National Preserve. Not too far from me at  
12 night there are gold wells running around the clock.  
13 The Collier family is getting ready to put in 800  
14 miles of additional roads in Big Cypress in 22 more  
15 well sites. Our freshwater supply is being  
16 contaminated from farmers, and saltwater is  
17 intruding into limestone from both sides of the  
18 coast.

19 You've got issues that are so much  
20 greater than this airport. You need to redirect  
21 your issues and thoughts. This isn't the problem  
22 that you need to be working on.

23 Thank you.

24 COLONEL McSHANE: That was all the cards  
25 we had for people who had not spoken before tonight.

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1 Lloyd Brown still here? After that will be Alan  
2 Parago.

3 000332 LLOYD SIMPSON: Thank you once again.  
4 My name is Lloyd Brown, director of Wildlife Rescue  
5 in Dade County. And for once I'm actually glad I  
6 got to wait to the end. Because there's been a lot  
7 of issues brought up I would like to personally  
8 address. With the exception of the 14 years I spent  
9 in the Army as a paratrooper, I've been in this  
10 community my entire life. During my time in the  
11 Army I fought in two wars, and four peace keeping  
12 operations and like any of you here tonight, I have  
13 the privilege of having earned my rights as a  
14 citizen.

15 Now, I'm not going to go into the  
16 numbers about the unemployment, that's been brought  
17 up quite a few times tonight. I'll suffice it to  
18 say the numbers have been falsely elevated. We have  
19 the statistics to prove it.

20 Tuesday night the young man said he  
21 would rather see an airplane crash in the Everglades  
22 than he would see an airplane crash in Hialeah. And  
23 I would admit, we would be better off, I won't deny  
24 that.

25 However, how many of us here would like

1 to see a fully loaded cargo 747, or an AM-124 crash  
 2 into the Turkey Point Nuclear Power plant? The  
 3 woman here tonight said that's impossible. The  
 4 nuclear power plant is not threatened by the  
 5 airplanes. May I remind, Monday afternoon Alaska  
 6 Airlines MD-83 went completely out of control,  
 7 flight crewmen had no control of where that aircraft  
 8 went. Well, what happened if that would have been  
 9 South Dade?

10 The EIS says that's it's going to be a  
 11 good idea to build an airport here in South Dade.  
 12 There was also a similar EIS a few years ago in  
 13 Valdez, Alaska they said it was a good idea to put  
 14 an oil terminal there. There's also one in  
 15 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania that it would be a good  
 16 idea to be put a nuclear power plant out on Three  
 17 Mile Island.

18 In closing, I will say I attended the  
 19 Chamber of Commerce South meeting last week, and  
 20 there was not a consensus of support for a  
 21 commercial airport, it was pretty evenly split among  
 22 the mixed-use alternative and the commercial  
 23 airport.

24 Wildlife Rescue of Dade County supports  
 25 the mixed-us alternative as put forth by the

1 Collier/Hoover Group Foundation. At that meeting, a  
 2 banker told me that he thought environmental  
 3 politics has its place, but we have to take  
 4 consideration of the people first. Ladies and  
 5 gentlemen, I would like to say that unless you have  
 6 another planet in mind to live on, the place for  
 7 environmental politics is right here.

8 Thank you.

9 COLONEL McSHANE: Alan Farago. Dr.

10 Robert Cruz on deck.

11 000333 ALAN FARAGO: My name is Alan Farago,  
 12 I'm with the Sierra Club in Miami. I would like to  
 13 address just two issues.

14 The first has to do with the part of the  
 15 SEIS talks about the comprehensive development  
 16 master plan process, which is the state process  
 17 governing the reuse of the air bases. Sierra Club  
 18 was involved on litigation on that issue. The SEIS  
 19 does talk about state processes as being sufficient  
 20 to cover certain environmental issues. We would  
 21 like to go on record adding to the comments earlier  
 22 by Richard Grosso that that process was a failure.  
 23 We spent a lot of time in mediation. We did not  
 24 reach any kind of agreement.

25 And to move on to the second point. I

1 would like to submit to the record a resolution by  
 2 the Monroe County Commission that was filed for  
 3 record on February 1st. The resolution in which  
 4 contrast to so many of the political figures who  
 5 spoke on Tuesday night in support of the commercial  
 6 airport, Monroe County has a multi-million dollar  
 7 tourism based economy, with the citizens who are  
 8 entirely dependent on a healthy environment. The  
 9 County Commission of Monroe County passed a  
 10 resolution that resolves that the U.S. Air Force and  
 11 the FAA will include the Environmental Impact Study  
 12 and have a public hearing in Key Largo, and,  
 13 furthermore, the Board of County Commissioners of  
 14 Monroe County, Florida supports the conveyance of  
 15 the former Homestead Air Force Base for development  
 16 alternatives other than a commercial airport.

17 Thank you.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Dr. Robert Cruz. On  
 19 deck will be Elizabeth Tyre.

20 000334 DR. ROBERT CRUZ: Good evening, members  
 21 of the panel and the public. We're still here. I'm  
 22 going to talk to you just about one specific issue  
 23 here, and that is the feasibility of the alternative  
 24 plans to redevelop in the area.

25 You've heard tonight and over the course

1 of your public hearings many arguments in favor of -  
 2 any sound arguments in favor of the County's  
 3 proposal. All of these arguments are supported by  
 4 your own study conducted by a panel, independent  
 5 panel of experts, but one of the things that happens  
 6 here that I have to disagree with and I point out  
 7 that the statement that the alternative proposal  
 8 will create almost as many jobs as the County's  
 9 proposal. I think that statement is, in fact, very  
 10 misleading and inaccurate for the following reasons:

11 The alternative mixed-use proposal is  
 12 really a combination, vaguely described combination  
 13 of two previously competing proposals. And, in  
 14 fact, you cannot overlay those two alternative  
 15 proposals and create one proposal. You've got two  
 16 proposals that are basically using the same land  
 17 area with different uses. For example, the Hoover  
 18 proposal have residential development where the  
 19 Collier proposal had the RV park and golf course. I  
 20 know you can't do that. We know those kind of  
 21 things can't be done. You can't create or develop  
 22 industrial space on top of golden space. That's  
 23 what the two previous proposals have done.

24 So you if you take these two proposals  
 25 and say now we're going to merge them, you really

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1 can't add economic impact of those two proposals.  
2 That doesn't work.

3 In fact, if you do have in combination  
4 with these two proposals, which is well articulated,  
5 I think you're going to see the impacts that are  
6 going to be claimed are going to be much less when  
7 looked at from a scientific and technical point of  
8 view.

9 The other point that I would like to  
10 make is this notion that the alternative proposals  
11 are sound from a market demand point of view, and  
12 they are not. As I said, one of the proposals calls  
13 for residential development. In fact, there isn't  
14 really a demand for residential development in that  
15 area. There's also no evidence of a demand for a  
16 luxury RV park and golf course in that area.

17 The aquarium is the most speculative  
18 aspect of all of those two. It's just, the market  
19 demand really hasn't been proven. You have to  
20 really rework this in order to evaluate accurately  
21 the economic impact of that alternative proposal.

22 And I know my time is running out.

23 Thank you for listening to my comments.

24 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you.

25 000335 ELIZABETH TYRE: Good evening, my name

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1 is Elizabeth Tyre, I am a resident of Naranja  
2 Preston Community. My house sits approximately 600  
3 feet from what used to be the air base housing. I  
4 have been - this is the third night that I've been  
5 here listening to you all, the arguments, and I  
6 wanted to bring this little piece of information  
7 that I found in the, actually, it's in the appendix  
8 section of the SEIS report. It's Exhibit 1-1,  
9 Appendix A, in the Appendices.

10 This shows that in 1999 Landerman and  
11 Brown reevaluated the numbers that were submitted in  
12 1994, and there's a page this long. I couldn't get  
13 it magnified.

14 One of the problems that I have with  
15 politicians coming to our area and telling us that  
16 we're going to get 38,000 jobs and a billion dollars  
17 is that when I look at these figures in this report,  
18 none of them seem to add up.

19 This chart right here shows that the  
20 forecasted operations have been changed in four  
21 different ways, and the last one shows that the  
22 forecasted operations is much lower than what it  
23 would be for 2015.

24 I don't know who to believe. I've got  
25 politicians screaming they want an airport where

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1 what used to be a base. All I can tell you is that  
2 in South Dade, the children that go to school in  
3 Naranja want the ability to make money for lives and  
4 their education. What they've been offered by Dade  
5 County through the Dade County School Board is a  
6 series of magnet programs that feed them from the  
7 middle school age into travel agency magnets.  
8 They're also fed into, offer the chance to attend  
9 Mask Academy on Key Biscayne and study marine  
10 biology and given the transportation to get there.

11 Now, after reading through this report  
12 and seeing the Hoover and the Collier plan and  
13 actually living there, we do have an RV park at the  
14 very end of the street from Naranja Elementary  
15 School and there is a very dedicated loyal group of  
16 French Canadians that use it every year. Our  
17 children have the chance to work in a travel agency  
18 to promote the tourism. The marine biology program  
19 at Mask Academy would help them work with  
20 aqua-agriculture that they can actually apply an  
21 education to.

22 So it's 2,717 days since Hurricane  
23 Andrew, and we still don't know what's going to  
24 happen to our community.

25 Thank you.

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1 COLONEL McSHANE: Ramon Rasco.

2 000336 RAMON RASCO: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 For those of you left here, ladies and gentlemen, my  
4 name is Ramon Rasco. I represent the developers  
5 selected by Miami-Dade County in a lawful,  
6 competitive and very public process. That after  
7 many public hearings resulted in the award of a very  
8 fair and inclusive lease for the development with  
9 private sectors dollars of a clean high-tech airport  
10 that is compatible with our environment.

11 Earlier you heard aviation director Gary  
12 Dellapa show conclusive evidence that this community  
13 needs another airport, and the most logical and  
14 suitable place is Homestead.

15 There is simply no other feasible site,  
16 not in Opa-Locka, not in Fort Lauderdale or any  
17 other place in South Florida. After seven years of  
18 the most comprehensive, the best and the most  
19 expensive studies in our nation's history, we have  
20 now seen the results in a draft SEIS, which was so  
21 strongly requested by environmental groups.

22 Now, some of those, of the more extreme  
23 environmental groups are ignoring the study and  
24 trying to intimidate our community with litigation.  
25 I say to them, let them put up a bomb big enough to

1 stop this project, we'll not be intimidated.  
 2 The Sierra attorneys, Mr. Grosso or  
 3 anybody else that spoke here tonight has offered one  
 4 single environmental study that shows any damage  
 5 will come to our parks or our communities as a  
 6 result of this airport. In fact, the SEIS which is  
 7 an independent conducted study and objective and  
 8 scientific study copclusively shows that the airport  
 9 can be without damages to our parks or environment  
 10 with the appropriate mitigation methods.  
 11 In addition to the SEIS and the other  
 12 federal studies, as Mayor Penelaa said, over 27  
 13 other mitigation studies have been developed by the  
 14 county to mitigate the impact on the environment.  
 15 The developer, my client, has never ever been  
 16 opposed to any mitigation plan regardless of what's  
 17 been said here before and, in fact, is committed to  
 18 implementing appropriate mitigation efforts to build  
 19 an airport and our environment.  
 20 The Collier Group is not here, has not  
 21 been here for any of these hearings, the plan has  
 22 not been the subject of any public hearing or public  
 23 scrutiny in this community; it has not been approved  
 24 by the local state or environmental agency or  
 25 government. Instead the Collier group is in

1 Washington, bypassing, trying to take for themselves  
 2 the land. It is well documented in the press in  
 3 other cities, not in our city and should be  
 4 investigated by the Air Force before any further  
 5 consideration is given to their plan, they have  
 6 tried to swap their mineral rights in five or six  
 7 other communities, most recently in Orlando. Every  
 8 single one of these communities has told them no.  
 9 Ladies and gentlemen, an airport at the  
 10 former Homestead Base is the best plan for our  
 11 community. It balances economic opportunity with  
 12 environmental responsibilities for our parks and our  
 13 wildlife. Don't take my word for it, read the SEIS.  
 14 COLONEL McSHANE: Buddy Howanitz.  
 15 000337 BUDDY HOWANITZ: I appreciate the time  
 16 to be here tonight. I waited quite late the other  
 17 night, but it was getting rather late, so we left at  
 18 10:30. I wasn't called. I do appreciate the  
 19 opportunity.  
 20 I have lived in Dade County over 50  
 21 years now. I grew up right down the street on 58th  
 22 Avenue and 12th Street, but for many years I've  
 23 lived in the area which is now affected by the Air  
 24 Base. I live in a very nice area, and I have a  
 25 horse ranch there, but one thing that happens is,

1 every day I go down there, I go through communities  
 2 that are devastated. They've been devastated since  
 3 Hurricane Andrew.  
 4 I go on Saturdays to Home Depot, and if  
 5 anyone lives in South Dade and goes to Home Depot  
 6 off US-1, you'll see no fewer than 150 people  
 7 standing on the side of the road looking for jobs.  
 8 These people aren't people on welfare, these are  
 9 people that need jobs. There are communities that  
 10 have legitimately suffered. They're suffering  
 11 today. I don't think there is a person that hasn't  
 12 been here that's not sensitive to the, including  
 13 myself. We love the outdoors, fish the Everglades,  
 14 fish the bay. I think the best we can hope for is  
 15 the opportunity to have a plan of growth. We can't  
 16 stop growth, we can't stop development, but we can  
 17 certainly hope that we can be a part in a  
 18 progressive growth. I think that, in my opinion, at  
 19 least, I don't know enough about the effects, but I  
 20 can and I did read the SEIS report. I do know that  
 21 from what's been reported, that the damage is not  
 22 what it's claimed to be by the environmentalists  
 23 that may be here today.  
 24 Recently, the same environmentalists  
 25 cost the county 27 million dollars to buy a circle

1 that we very gladly sold. I was part of the group  
 2 that sold that to the County for 27 million, but  
 3 that's what the environmentalists did.  
 4 So thank you for your time.  
 5 COLONEL McSHANE: Jonathan Ullman  
 6 followed by Ignacio Sanchez.  
 7 000338 JONATHAN ULLMAN: My name is Jonathan  
 8 Ullman. I'm the South Florida Everglades  
 9 representative for the National Sierra Club. We're  
 10 an organization that cares deeply for the national  
 11 parks. I wanted to say that I keep hearing over and  
 12 over again that this SEIS says that no harm will  
 13 come to the national parks. Well, it never said  
 14 that. And anybody who says that is incorrect,  
 15 because here's what the SEIS does say.  
 16 The SEIS says that we will have a little  
 17 less than one operation a minute just two miles from  
 18 Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park.  
 19 It says these flights will be in altitudes of lower  
 20 longer because of MIA's air space to the north. It  
 21 says that the sound will be equivalent to a power  
 22 lawnmower three feet away. It says that the  
 23 proposed airport will have increased nutrient  
 24 pollution to Biscayne Bay. It says the airport will  
 25 increase nitrates by 54 times. It says that there

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1 will be a significant increase of air pollutants,  
2 polycycline and hydrocarbons, and among those is  
3 toxins to marine life.

4 It says that development associated with the  
5 airport will result in destruction of thousands of  
6 acres of agriculture and wildlife. It says that  
7 daily emissions of seven toxic like nitrous oxide,  
8 and other organic compounds will there be. Nitrous  
9 oxide levels will be increased ten times in Biscayne  
10 National Park and 45 times in Everglades National  
11 Park. And there are other things that SEIS didn't  
12 say. It didn't look at what will happen to the  
13 national parks and the environment to South Dade  
14 after the plan's second runway, if there is a  
15 planned second runway, which I would hope this will  
16 not be, because I don't think there should be a  
17 first runway. Storm water management plan, the SEIS  
18 assumes the plan will be 100 percent effective, but  
19 the County's own experts stated its design is  
20 inadequate to handle large storms and the plan is  
21 currently being challenged in contamination and  
22 quantities.

23 And finally the SEIS assumes that the  
24 UDB will not move, UDB is an urban development  
25 operation and minimizes the extent of development

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1 associated with the airport and consequently the  
2 environmental impacts. This is one thing I can  
3 prove. (Thereupon, a video was shown.)

4 Now, that video was good, but this is  
5 the reality.

6 Thank you.

7 COLONEL McSHANE: Mr. Sanchez.

8 000339 IGNACIO SANCHEZ: Good evening, Colonel,  
9 thank you for another opportunity to address the  
10 draft SEIS.

11 It's interesting to note that previous  
12 speakers comments attacking the airport proposal and  
13 this shows the good faith of HABDI and Dade County.  
14 Our plan is on the record, it's there for everybody  
15 to see. It's there for everybody to critic. It's  
16 impossible to critic, and therefore, it's impossible  
17 for you to evaluate the Collier/Hoover proposal.  
18 It's not on the record, nobody knows what it will  
19 do. It doesn't have any remediation plan. It  
20 doesn't have any kind of discussion with regards to  
21 the phosphorus based chemicals that will be used on  
22 the golf course. I don't envy your job, but it is  
23 very difficult to do, and that plan is yet to exist.

24 With respect to the draft SEIS, I want  
25 to also point out that the one thing these folks

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1 convinced me of is that - one lady in particular -  
2 she's been living here since 1950, how much she  
3 enjoys the park. I wanted to remind everybody that  
4 Biscayne National Park did not become a park until  
5 1980. Everglades did not become a park until 1947.  
6 The Air Force Base was put there in 1942. It was  
7 there before those two parks and those same  
8 alligators that they enjoyed, the same snakes and  
9 same birds have coexisted with B-52's and F-16's,  
10 and they're still there for everybody to enjoy, and  
11 they've all testified for three days how much they  
12 enjoyed that park. They were all there while B-52's  
13 and F-16's were taking off at a pace that will far  
14 exceed anything that this airport will have. I  
15 support the proposed action for conversion of  
16 Homestead Air Force Base to a commercial airport.

17 Thank you.

18 COLONEL McSHANE: Paul Acosta. Next on  
19 deck is Alex Heckler.

20 000340 PAUL ACOSTA: Good evening. My name is  
21 Paul Acosta. I wanted to thank you once again for  
22 allowing me to address this distinguished panel.

23 In 1992 Hurricane Andrew devastated  
24 South Miami-Dade County. For eight years South  
25 Miami-Dade County has heard promise after promise,

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1 unfortunately none of those promises have been  
2 delivered. We've all heard President Clinton tell  
3 us the other night in the State of the Union Address  
4 the United States of American is moving to the new  
5 millennium with over 20 million new jobs. We're  
6 experiencing at this time now the fastest economic  
7 growth and the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years.

8 Unfortunately, South Miami-Dade County  
9 is not going along for that ride. They're  
10 experiencing right now 15 percent unemployment rate.  
11 I'm here to tell you the County's reuse plan will  
12 help South Miami-Dade County to get back on track.  
13 Based on the SEIS figures, it is estimated that  
14 we'll be looking at 38,000 new jobs with about one  
15 billion in earnings per year.

16 Now, sometimes we hear some of these  
17 astronomical figures and we really can't comprehend  
18 them. Some 20 million new jobs, you know, fastest  
19 economic growth rate, all these things that are  
20 things we really can't comprehend, but let me give  
21 you something that you can as it relates to job  
22 variations.

23 I said this the other night, I was cut  
24 off short unfortunately. Miami-Dade County right  
25 now is the single largest employer in Dade County.

1 I'm talking about the government structure, they  
2 belong to 28,000 people, this plan proposes 38,000  
3 jobs. What we have before us simply is an economic  
4 machine, but unfortunately now for over six years  
5 since the final SEIS report was released in 1994, we  
6 haven't been able to turn that engine on. Please  
7 let us do that now.

8 Now, the eleventh hour, we have a  
9 Collier plan, we're not exactly sure what this plan  
10 is, but with the most generous estimates possible,  
11 we're looking at best possibly 14,000 new jobs.  
12 About 350 million claiming in earnings. I have a  
13 hard time realizing those numbers or seeing those  
14 numbers when it's centered around two golf centers  
15 and a mobile home park.

16 The average aviation job will generate a  
17 salary of approximately \$38,000 a year, that's 32  
18 percent more than what your average recreational job  
19 will generate. And this is straight out of the  
20 SEIS. As far as it relates to the Collier plan,  
21 it's estimated to be the least intensive  
22 alternative.

23 The time has come, this community has  
24 suffered and endured enough. I urge you to support  
25 the County's reuse plan.

1 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Jamie  
2 Brown. On deck is Felix Hector.

3 000341 JAMIE BROWN: First I wanted to thank  
4 the Air Force for your great work and your patience  
5 over these three days. I'm sure it's been a long  
6 three days for you.

7 I am stunned that the national  
8 representative of the Sierra Club stood here tonight  
9 and tried to make the case that there's not a  
10 serious economic need in South Dade.

11 I just wanted to extend an invitation,  
12 sometime in between February 20th Naranja is having  
13 a community council meeting. I will drive you down  
14 there so you can sit in front of those folks and  
15 tell them they don't have an economic need. There's  
16 a 30 poverty rate in Homestead, 37 percent in  
17 Florida City, it's been declared poverty zone. And  
18 the Housing and Urban Development Secretary has said  
19 that this is one of the few pockets of poverty in  
20 the country. So I'm happy to drive you down there  
21 so you can tell the folks that they're doing all  
22 right.

23 I also wanted to mention in the waiting  
24 hours of the SEIS public hearings that in terms of  
25 the Collier plan, I started out the week fairly

1 skeptical about what it would do for the community,  
2 at the end of the week, I am incredibly skeptical.  
3 It's definitely reinforced my opinion that it just  
4 won't work. It's smoke in mirrors. There's plenty  
5 of land down there right now to build a golf course  
6 and all these great things, but somebody's figured  
7 out, the market needs are not there, otherwise it  
8 would have been done right now.

9 So I hope nobody counts on this for  
10 being a solution for some folks that really need  
11 some help down there. Thanks.

12 000342 FELIX RODRIGUEZ: Good evening. My name  
13 is Felix Rodriguez. The last time I testified  
14 before this panel I stated that building a golf  
15 course and business complex next to a military base  
16 was not the brightest idea for obvious reasons. I  
17 also stated that the commercial airport proposal was  
18 the better of the two proposals regarding the  
19 redevelopment of the Homestead Air Reserve Base. I  
20 used nothing more than a bit of common sense and  
21 some first-hand accounts to prove my point, but I  
22 left unsatisfied with my argument.

23 So being a college student, I decided to  
24 do some research regarding the Collier proposal. I  
25 sat in front of my computer for hours looking

1 through newspaper archives and alike. What I found  
2 was an incredible amount of information that I was  
3 not privy to when I first testified before this  
4 panel.

5 I found out this is not the first time  
6 the Colliers have tried to swap mineral rights for  
7 air bases. In fact, they have been unsuccessful  
8 three other times that I can account for. The San  
9 Diego Union Tribune reported in 1996 that the  
10 Colliers tried this same kind of proposal in  
11 exchange for air bases in Orlando, San Francisco,  
12 and Orange County, California. Each time the  
13 decision-makers saw right through the Collier  
14 proposal and decided against giving away the air  
15 bases. The Union Tribune referred to this proposal  
16 as a "tycoon fantasy."

17 So I kept searching. And I stumbled  
18 upon an article in the Palm Beach Post entitled  
19 "Don't Trade Homestead." This article stated: "In  
20 the first place, it is not at all certain that the  
21 Colliers can get the drilling permits, the holes  
22 themselves are bad enough, but the roads needed to  
23 get through the equipment to the holes would be even  
24 worse for the fragile slum."

25 In other words, the Colliers well may be

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1 offering nothing. In return they will get three  
2 square miles of prime land in an urban area with all  
3 the public facilities in place for development. The  
4 article went on to state that: "yet another upscale  
5 golf course subdivision with some artificial lakes  
6 and a few offices might help the Collier balance  
7 sheet, but it would do little or nothing for the  
8 areas around.

9 So at this point the Collier proposal  
10 looks even worse, but I kept searching and I found  
11 the most damaging account by far.

12 In April of 1999 Florida Today reported  
13 that, "If the government doesn't accept the deal,  
14 the Collier family of Naples threaten to extend oil  
15 exploration into 825 square miles of federally  
16 protected wilderness inhabited by animals such as  
17 bald eagles, wood storks and Florida panthers."

18 Now, as I said the other night, I'm not  
19 an expert, but I am interested in eventually  
20 becoming an attorney. An attorneys have a term for  
21 this, extortion. In this particular case,  
22 environmental extortion.

23 What the Colliers are basically saying  
24 to the government is hand over the air base or we're  
25 going to drill. But being the skeptic that I am, I

1 noticed one major flaw in the threat, if drilling  
2 were viable, they would have done it by now. In  
3 fact, it seems the Colliers are desperate to get rid  
4 of the drilling rights. Why? Because they're  
5 worthless, it isn't cost effective to attempt to  
6 drill over protected lands.

7 Ironically though the interior Secretary  
8 Bruce Babbitt told the Colliers last year to go  
9 ahead and pursue the oil exploration permits. He  
10 must have precluded the same as I did, and decided  
11 that these were empty threats.

12 Final thought, the commercial airport  
13 keeps the land with part of the revenues going back  
14 to the people. The choice is obvious, this county  
15 needs another airport and Homestead could really use  
16 38,000 new jobs.

17 Now I understand why the Colliers  
18 decided not to give a presentation regarding the  
19 project, it's full of holes.

20 COLONEL McSHANE: Howard Behar.

21 000343 HOWARD BEHAR: Good evening, Colonel,  
22 panel, and again, thank you for the opportunity to  
23 speaking again.

24 I would like to point out certain  
25 elements of the proposed action versus the Collier

1 plan.

2 As part of the proposed action, the  
3 County set up 162 acres of an area to be set aside  
4 as a park for public use. However, the Collier plan  
5 absolutely robs the County of portions of this  
6 acreage for one reason only, to retain it as part of  
7 their project. Financial gain for a private  
8 developer. But it does not end there yet.

9 There was a portion also that was set  
10 aside to be set up for the School Board Advisory.  
11 However, the Collier plan took part of this portion  
12 of the school property, again, for one reason only,  
13 financial gain. And what did this do? This  
14 jeopardizes federal and state funding for the county  
15 school.

16 Obviously this appropriation of land  
17 should have come before some type of regulatory  
18 authority that could have had some type of  
19 decision-making authority to stop this type of  
20 action. Was it ever conducted in a hearing? No.  
21 Was there ever anything in front of the County  
22 Commission? No. The Water District in Palm Beach  
23 County? No. The Department of Community Affairs in  
24 Tallahassee? No. However, what the Colliers are  
25 trying to do is a deal in Washington D.C, and,

1 again, bypass the South Florida Community entirely,  
2 but let's change the topic now to golf.

3 The Collier plan is proposing two new  
4 golf courses, and as we've discussed before, we have  
5 a Keys Gate Golf Course that's barely used, and an  
6 adjoining Redlands Golf Course that's, again, barely  
7 used. Has there ever been a study showing that we  
8 absolutely and desperately need another golf course  
9 in the Homestead Community? No.

10 Where is our plan that integrates the  
11 plant activities around the golf course with a  
12 military base? There's no plan that integrates  
13 both.

14 But absolutely what mystifies me about  
15 this entire process is how this community and its  
16 primary source of written media, the Miami Herald,  
17 has shut its eyes on the Collier's tactics to win  
18 military bases instead of the communities that  
19 deserve them the most. But this hasn't happened in  
20 all communities. It didn't happen in Orlando, and  
21 the Orlando Sentinel stood behind its community. In  
22 fact, the Orlando Sentinel went to the heart of the  
23 Collier's threat, exposed the truth of the Collier's  
24 negotiation with the government without the city's  
25 input at all.

1           Once this was known by the city, the  
2 city, the newspaper and the community as a whole  
3 came together and stopped this process entirely. In  
4 fact, the Orlando Sentinel published the concerns  
5 addressed by the major conservatory, calling their  
6 mineral rights worthless and challenging them,  
7 asking them for real land from the Colliers, if they  
8 were going to swap.

9           In conclusion, we as a community should  
10 act like Orlando and capture this golden opportunity  
11 to take a land that belongs to the people of  
12 Miami-Dade County.

13           COLONEL McSHANE: Mario J. Garcia-Serra  
14 followed by Karen Salas.

15           000344 MARIO GARCIA-SERRA: Good evening,  
16 Colonel. I just want to indicate in the little time  
17 I have to putting two rumors to rest. The first  
18 rumor is that there was some sort of political deal  
19 that went around this contract. Now that's just not  
20 true. Because when this contract was awarded, it  
21 was awarded, but it was awarded because nobody else  
22 was willing to put their money on it to help the  
23 people of South Dade right after Hurricane Andrew.

24           If there has been any political deal  
25 made, it's been going on right now, at the last

1           minute, where somebody is trying to hijack the  
2 process with money in Washington.

3           Secondly, for those of you who believe  
4 the situation is not that bad in South Dade, I  
5 highly recommend that they drive down to South Dade,  
6 and see the 15 percent unemployment and see the 30  
7 percent poverty rate on their way driving down Key  
8 Largo.

9           Lastly, the good people of South Dade  
10 need jobs, and by good jobs I don't mean hotel maids  
11 or golf guys.

12           Thank you very much.

13           000361 KAREN SALAS: Hi. My name is Karen  
14 Salas. Like Felix I also did some research and came  
15 across some articles, one which particularly  
16 interested me, so I wanted to read it out loud.  
17 Actually, I wanted to read part of it out loud.

18           This article is published in the Orlando  
19 Sentinel back when the Colliers were trying to swamp  
20 lands for the Orlando Naval Base.

21           "The Interior Secretary's Former  
22 Right-hand Man is Now Working for a Florida Family  
23 that Wants the Orlando Naval Base." This article  
24 was published May, 19, 1996 and was written by Sean  
25 Halton of the Washington Bureau.

1           The article reads:

2           "Florida's wealthy Collier family bought  
3 a direct line from the interior secretary Bruce  
4 Babbitt as part of the family's bid to take over  
5 five military bases in Orlando at the federal  
6 government.

7           "The family has used Babbitt's former  
8 right-hand man as a lobbyist to help the Interior  
9 Department with a lucrative land swap involving the  
10 Orlando Naval Training Center and four soon to be  
11 closed bases on prime California land.

12           "That strong behind the scenes political  
13 connection may help explain why top material  
14 officials remain open to the Collier image, even as  
15 lower levels, federal and state officials question  
16 it's environmental urgency and suggest it may not be  
17 in the U.S. taxpayers best interest. Rodney Boone  
18 (phonetic) is a prominent lobbyist who was Babbitt's  
19 chief of staff in the days of Arizona governor and  
20 is still confirmed last week that he works for the  
21 Colliers."

22           The Miami Herald makes me wonder where  
23 their investigate team has been. This is clearly an  
24 important decision that will affect the lives for  
25 many years to come. So I urge the Air Force Base to

1           investigate this further in coming to a final  
2 decision.

3           Thank you.

4           COLONEL McSHANE: Richard Groh.

5           000345 RICHARD GROH: Hello, ladies and  
6 gentlemen, and the panel here. My name is Richard  
7 Groh, been a resident of Dade County all my life, 38  
8 years. Born and raised here. And I'm a member of  
9 South Dade County since 1980. I have a tape I would  
10 like to show you here of the typical business  
11 activity that's here in South Dade at this time.

12           (Thereupon, a tape was played.)

13           RICHARD GROH: Well, folks, as you can  
14 see, this is the grim reality of the situation in  
15 South Dade. For some of you that don't live here,  
16 it's hard for you to realize. I wish more business  
17 owners were here to speak for themselves, speak up  
18 for themselves, a lot of them have given up.

19           You've seen them, they've closed their  
20 businesses. People have their businesses here all  
21 their lives, many businesses have been here 20, 25  
22 years, they've had to close, there's no jobs, very  
23 little jobs, very little to look forward to, from  
24 many business owners and landowners in South Dade.

25           Thank you.

# COMMENTS

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1 COLONEL McSHANE: I realize that I  
2 pulled Richard Groh's card out, I thought he was the  
3 same individual who spoken the other day, so I put  
4 him way at the back when he should have talked a  
5 long time ago. And I just called Donald Groh's name  
6 and since your brother used about five minutes, I'll  
7 give you another minute if you would like to do that  
8 at this point.

9 000346 DONALD GROH: Okay. My name is Donald  
10 Groh and my brother. As I was making this tape,  
11 I've had to edit so much out of it to bring it down  
12 to a little over three minutes. My wife said to me,  
13 this is so sad, I can't believe how sad it is, and I  
14 started crying.

15 I'm a landlord, I've got to go and  
16 collect rents from these people in order to pay our  
17 mortgages. The grim reality is they don't make  
18 money. None of the businesses are making any money,  
19 and the worst feeling in the world is going to them  
20 and serving them their eviction notices, and I just  
21 wanted to say we need our help, we need help from  
22 everybody to try to turn this situation around and  
23 we hope you make the best decision for the economy  
24 in South Dade.

25 Thank you.

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1 COLONEL McSHANE: Ana Palma, on deck  
2 Bill McRugh.

3 000347 ANA PALMA: Hello, my name is Ana Palma.  
4 I love the Everglades too, but I love my children,  
5 and I don't want my children to have to be going out  
6 looking for jobs elsewhere. I want jobs here for  
7 them. I think there is a way and I think the  
8 airport can be built and be environmentally safe.

9 Thank you.

10 000348 BILL McHUGH: I wanted to thank the Air  
11 Force and the FAA for holding these hearings to get  
12 the opportunity to get public views of what's going  
13 on, particularly on your draft SEIS.

14 I'm Bill McHugh, I'm an airport  
15 consultant. I have been here for the last two days  
16 in support of the conveyance of Homestead Air Force  
17 Base to Dade County for the development of the  
18 commercial airport.

19 The lead EIS has evaluated Dade County's  
20 proposed plan for this use and has found that it  
21 will produce positive job opportunities and economic  
22 growth to the Homestead area. This EIS also found  
23 that the commercial airport use will help solve the  
24 projected growth and aviation demands in the Miami  
25 area in the next few years. This will not change in

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1 use the land on which it was established, because  
2 that land was established as an airport some 60 odd  
3 years ago, the EIS did not find any unacceptable  
4 environmental reason to prohibit a commercial  
5 airport reuse of this facility.

6 I have heard many opinions on this  
7 commercial airport use would be unacceptable for  
8 this property. Many of the reasons that I heard and  
9 the information that was put forth was available to  
10 the Air Force and the FAA as they prepared the SEIS,  
11 and still, the commercial airport plan produced more  
12 benefits than the other proposed uses. Until a  
13 compelling case can be made against the commercial  
14 airport plan, I still stand in support of that plan.

15 Thank you.

16 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Mercedes  
17 Sellek.

18 000349 MERCEDES SELLEK: Good evening, Colonel,  
19 panel members. This evening I'm here in a capacity,  
20 it's a little bit different than my last few  
21 presentations to the panel.

22 This evening I am here to speak for  
23 president of the senate of the State of Florida, Tom  
24 Jennings, and speaker of the house representative  
25 Mr. John Thrasher. Senator Jennings and John

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1 Thrasher drafted a letter to Vice President Al Gore  
2 and asked to be read into the record, and I'll be  
3 glad to provide you a copy. The original was sent  
4 to Mr. Gore.

5 \*Dear Vice President:

6 This letter is in support of the  
7 proposal of Miami-Dade County to convert Homestead  
8 Air Force Base into a new commercial airport.

9 As you're aware, Miami Dade's proposal  
10 has been the subject of comprehensive research.  
11 That research supports the expeditious adoption of  
12 this proposal.

13 The most significant aspect of the  
14 development of the commercial airport is the  
15 economic opportunity that it will provide South  
16 Dade. Infrastructure development can encourage and  
17 strengthen long term economic growth. The recent  
18 estimates suggest that the development of the  
19 commercial airport at completion would directly  
20 result in the creation of over 17,000 jobs.  
21 Additionally, it is projected that over 20,000  
22 on-site jobs would sustain a commercial airport.  
23 Overall, the commercial airport will provide a  
24 stable economic base for South Dade.

25 While economic growth is paramount, it

1 is also necessary to analyze the environmental  
2 effects of the proposed development. Over the last  
3 six years several reports have been produced  
4 regarding the disposal of Homestead Air Force Base.  
5 Last December the most comprehensive report, the  
6 draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
7 was released. Several findings in that report  
8 should be noted.

9 The draft SBIS found that overall the  
10 development would have negligible or minimal  
11 environmental impacts. It is actually projected  
12 that the mandatory implementation of the Service  
13 Water Management master plan, the freshwater  
14 discharges into Biscayne Bay will decrease 28  
15 percent by 2015.

16 Noise impacts on both national parks and  
17 in the local communities are so small that a noise  
18 management mitigation plan will not be required.

19 Given the fact that Miami-Dade County  
20 will require additional commercial airport capacity,  
21 the proposal to develop Homestead Air Force Base  
22 offers the County an environmentally responsible way  
23 to meet that need and provide economic growth for  
24 South Dade.

25 It is our hope that the federal

1 government will in the most expeditious way adopt  
2 this plan.

3 Very Truly,  
4 Tom Jennings, Senator. John Thrasher,  
5 Speaker of the House.

6 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. Art  
7 Fernandez followed by William Riley.

8 000350 ART FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
9 Committee. You know, I had the pleasure of speaking  
10 in front of you on Monday night as a labor leader  
11 and represented 2,000 people. Tonight, I would like  
12 to speak to you as a taxpayer of Dade County.

13 And I wanted to say something, Colonel.  
14 I've had clearances for 18 years to work on almost  
15 every type of missile site, I mean every type of  
16 missile, and I don't know how many missile sites  
17 throughout the country and even parts of Canada,  
18 almost on the Canadian border. And I get tired of  
19 hearing you have to make a tough decision.

20 Let me say this to you, Monday night I  
21 heard Representative Candas said either you pay now  
22 or you pay later. And I know that the people were  
23 right and I know they can shut down a lot of things,  
24 a lot of military bases, but like Representative  
25 Candas says, you either pay now or later. Because

1 you got either two choices, you either turn over to  
2 Dade County, or you close it. So what do they want  
3 to do?

4 If you close the Air Force Base, it  
5 relates back to Dade County, and no telling what  
6 they're going to do. So let's leave it as an  
7 airport. Let's revitalize Homestead Air Force Base.  
8 Let's turn it back to Dade County and then have the  
9 one that puts the money up, get it developed, and I  
10 support it 100 percent.

11 Thank you.

12 COLONEL McSHANE: William Riley. On  
13 deck Jose Romero.

14 000351 WILLIAM RILEY: William Riley,  
15 International Brotherhood of Workers. I had the  
16 pleasure of speaking to you on Monday night down in  
17 South Dade and the same things apply. I mean,  
18 you've heard it from a lot of people, you know that  
19 in the year 2015 we're going to be out of air space.  
20 There's no other place to build the facility.  
21 There's no viable site that you could find 1600  
22 acres or 1700 acres.

23 You've heard the majority of elected  
24 officials in the County state that they are in favor  
25 of this that represent millions of people in

1 Florida, and in Dade County hundreds of thousands of  
2 people, and there's just no reason to hold this up  
3 any longer.

4 We would appreciate if you all would  
5 support the airport, because the people of Homestead  
6 and the people making a living building things, we  
7 need it, we need it really badly. So we would  
8 appreciate your support.

9 Thank you.

10 COLONEL McSHANE: Jose Romero.

11 000352 JOSE ROMERO: Good evening. My name is  
12 Jose Romero. I live in Homestead. I have been  
13 living in Dade County for 35 years. I own a small  
14 business in Homestead. For the last 20 years I have  
15 been there. Lately, after Andrew, we are going  
16 through a hard time. We need 38,000 jobs. We need  
17 to do this as soon as possible.

18 In Homestead we saw the movie, but  
19 there's more shopping centers, like the one you saw  
20 in the movie. There's one shopping center around my  
21 house, out of the 18 businesses was there, there's  
22 only two left. This wasn't on the movie. There's a  
23 lot of other things.

24 In our community we had an election like  
25 three months ago, we elected our mayor. If all them

COMMENTS

1 there was for this development, they all voted in  
 2 favor of the airport, transfer to a be a commercial.  
 3 We should also in Dade County, the major  
 4 and most of the commissions are in favor of this  
 5 airport being built, the commercial. It's very  
 6 important to say that the racetrack - they put a  
 7 racetrack in Homestead, that only provide jobs for  
 8 eight or ten days a year.  
 9 Also, the baseball that we have in  
 10 Homestead is empty. Why it's empty? Because nobody  
 11 wants to play baseball there because the community  
 12 is very bad, there's no money. So who wants to be  
 13 put baseball there? Before Andrew they were  
 14 planning to put a baseball team. After Andrew they  
 15 wouldn't put a baseball team. We waited seven  
 16 years. We haven't done anything.  
 17 It's about time we get it going and get  
 18 something resolved. Do this commercial airport as  
 19 soon as possible and, you know, it's very sad to  
 20 waste every year. What, are we going to have a  
 21 ghost town in Homestead? We need it badly. It's  
 22 enough time. Thank you, and have a nice day.  
 23 COLONEL McSHANE: Thank you. That was  
 24 the last card. I'm not going to go through the  
 25 cards of names I called earlier. People who didn't

1 respond, if there's anyone here who has not had a  
 2 chance to speak and now desires to do so, this is  
 3 your opportunity.  
 4 000353 LUIS CASAS: My name is Luis Casas.  
 5 Nothing can be better for Homestead City and nothing  
 6 can happen better for Homestead City for the city or  
 7 for Homestead citizens than bring in the commercial  
 8 airport.  
 9 Miami with the Miami International  
 10 Airport as any person can see Miami International  
 11 Airport that is a clean city and clean airport. If  
 12 you breathe air there deep, the only thing you get  
 13 is fresh air in the airport, in Miami and Fort  
 14 Lauderdale, too. So the best thing for Homestead  
 15 City is bring the airport to commercial.  
 16 Thank you.  
 17 COLONEL McSHANE: Your name?  
 18 000354 JORGE MERIDA: Good evening. Jorge  
 19 Merida. I live in Dade County. I've been living  
 20 here for the past 30 years. I just want to thank  
 21 you for your time. And I read somewhere In God we  
 22 Trust and I want to change that to, In the Air Force  
 23 We Trust. I hope we bring the airport to Homestead.  
 24 COLONEL McSHANE: Okay. Anybody else?  
 25 I don't see any.

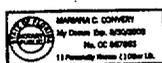
1 I want to thank you folks very much for  
 2 your comments and for participating in the public  
 3 hearing, especially those of you who showed up so  
 4 many times this week.  
 5 Your comments will be extremely helpful  
 6 to the Air Force and other agencies in preparing the  
 7 final SEIS.  
 8 As we close here, I do want to remind  
 9 you that if you didn't comment tonight or if you did  
 10 comment and decide that you have more to say on this  
 11 issue, you may write your comments down. You can  
 12 either leave them here with the staff today in the  
 13 box on the comment table or you can mail them in  
 14 later. Just make sure they are mailed no later than  
 15 March 7th so we can address them in the final SEIS.  
 16 Once again, I want to thank you for  
 17 attending these public hearings. The Air Force  
 18 appreciates you sharing your ideas and time.  
 19 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded at  
 20 approximately 11:30 p.m.)  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
 ) SS:  
 COUNTY OF DADE )

I, MARIANA C. CONVERDY, do hereby certify  
 that the foregoing pages 1 to and including 175, is a  
 true and correct transcription of my stenographic  
 notes of the Supplemental Environmental Impact  
 Statement to the best of my ability, taken at 5901  
 S.W. 8th Street, City of Miami, County of Dade, State  
 of Florida, on the 3rd day of February, 2000.  
 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto  
 affixed my hand this 22nd day of February, 2000.

*Mariana C. Converd*  
 MARIANA C. CONVERDY, Stenographer  
 Reporter and Notary Public,  
 State of Florida at Large.



**Written Comments**



COMMENTS

000005

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2.1.00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I OPPOSE THE ACTIVE AIRPORT PLAN ON ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUNDS. NOISE & OTHER POLLUTION OVER THE KEYS
IS UNACCEPTABLE. THIS IS OUR LAST LIVING REEF.
WE DON'T NEED MORE DEAD REEFS.

TRAFFIC TO THE KEYS IS ALREADY OVERLOADED,
THE PLAN WOULD GREATLY IMPACT ON THIS
PROBLEM. RECREATION/RECREATION WOULD BE
SLOWED BY FURTHER CONGESTION.

DON'T SELL US OUT SO CHEAPLY!!
OTHER Viable PLANS WOULD BE REEF FRIENDLY,
WHILE GRANTING JOBS WITHOUT ENVIRONMENT IMPACT.

CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE
CONTINÙE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO

NAME/NOMBRE: ARTHUR DIMEDIA
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 17 N. BRIDGE LANE
CITY/CIUDAD: KEY LARGO, FL. 33037
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS.
Se publicarán sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su direcci3n personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES DE 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS
AFBCA/EX
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300
Arlington, VA 22209-2802
FAX: 703-696-8828

000006



League of United Latin American Citizens

A RESOLUTION OF THE
League of United Latin American Citizens EXPRESSING
SUPPORT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF HOMESTEAD AIR
FORCE BASE AS HOMESTEAD REGIONAL AIRPORT IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR DISPOSAL OF PORTIONS OF THE
FORMER HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, AS PREPARED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE IN DECEMBER, 1999;
PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF RESOLUTION;
PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in August of 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated the southern portion of
Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary economic and employment centers destroyed by
Hurricane Andrew was the Homestead Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, after Hurricane Andrew, Homestead Air Force Base was closed in the
BRAC process and later redefined as a significantly reduced air reserve operation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration (the
"FAA") have recently completed the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (the
"SEIS") concerning disposal of portions of the former Homestead Air Force Base (the "AFB"),
dated December, 1999; and

WHEREAS, at the insistence of the Clinton Administration and various environmental
organizations, the people of Homestead and South Miami-Dade County had been forced for
several years to set aside all expectations of new jobs and economic recovery while both a
Sensitivity Analysis (whose conclusions were the same as the 1994 Final Environmental
Impact Statement) and the SEIS were completed; and

WHEREAS, a unique opportunity presently exists to promote the economic recovery
of southern Miami-Dade County by providing for the redevelopment of the former Homestead
Air Force Base as a commercial airport; and

WHEREAS, this opportunity must be pursued without further delay; and
WHEREAS, the SEIS indicates that the use of surplus lands of the AFB for the
development of a commercial airport, to be designated as Homestead Regional Airport, as
proposed by Miami-Dade County, can be accomplished in a manner which is compatible with
the environment; and
WHEREAS, it is also clear, as the SEIS indicates, that commercial air activity at the
Homestead facility will not have "any significant impact on our national parks and/or their
surroundings"; and
WHEREAS, the Homestead Regional Airport will generate thousands of new jobs and
will facilitate the development of airport related facilities and commercial and industrial
enterprises; and
WHEREAS, the development of the Homestead Regional Airport will enable the
southern Miami-Dade County community to make substantial progress in recovering from the
devastating impact of Hurricane Andrew and the closure of Homestead Air Force Base; and
WHEREAS, the Homestead Regional Airport would provide scheduled air passenger
services, as well as air freight, air cargo, and general aviation operations; and
WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County needs a second commercial airport and, as found in
the SEIS, the only suitable site for a second airport is the former Homestead Air Force Base;
and
WHEREAS, aviation services provided by Homestead Regional Airport would serve to
provide much needed relief to Miami International Airport ("MIA") by serving as a reliever
airport; and

WHEREAS, MIA would greatly benefit from a reliever airport to mitigate the heavy
demand created by the growing quantity of international traffic; and
WHEREAS, the runway at Homestead Regional Airport can readily accommodate all
types of aircraft in the civil fleet, and must, in any event, remain active in the future to meet
U.S. Military and U.S. Customs needs; and
WHEREAS, the SEIS indicates that a commercial airport facility can be developed in a
manner that respects our environment, while alleviating the long term planning problems of
air capacity for Miami-Dade County; but more importantly, fulfilling the federal government's
commitment made many years ago, to help revitalize our economy.
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE
League of United Latin American Citizens AS FOLLOWS:
Section 1. Recitals adopted. That each of the above stated recitals are hereby
confirmed and adopted.
Section 2. Statement of Support. That the League of United Latin American Citizens hereby
expresses its strong support for the development of Homestead Regional Airport, in
accordance with the proposal of Miami-Dade County, Florida, as evaluated in the SEIS of
December, 1999.
Section 3. Request for Action. That the League of United Latin American Citizens calls upon all
interested parties to move forward with this essential project.
Section 4. Distribution of Resolution. That a copy of this resolution shall be
distributed to the Honorable Albert Gore, Jr., the South Florida Congressional Delegation, the
United States Air Force, the FAA, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners,

Mayor Alex Penelas of Miami-Dade County, Mayor Otis Wallace of Florida City, Mayor Steve Shiver of the City of Homestead, the County Manager of Miami-Dade County, the Director of MIA, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, and to other interested parties as designated by the Chamber.

Section 5. That this Resolution shall be effective immediately from and after its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 31<sup>st</sup> day of JANUARY, 2000.

ATTEST:

[Signature]

[Signature]  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Office of the Florida State Director



League of United Latin American Citizens

Armando V. Pomar  
Florida State Director

cel: (305) 762-6167

948 S.W. 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (305) 261-5348  
Miami, Florida 33144 Fax: (305) 267-5200  
P.O. Box 64903 Paper: (305) 215-2811  
Miami, Florida 33164-4903 Email: LULACFLAP@AOL.com

955.0034112234.doc



League of United Latin American Citizens  
Office of the Florida State Director

PRESS RELEASE

Marí, 31 de enero 2000.-

LULAC de la Florida apoya el desarrollo de Homestead  
Esta zona del sur de la Florida, destruida en 1992 por el huracán Andrews, debe ser desarrollada para bien de las minorías latinas.

La Liga Unida de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos (League of United Latin American Citizens), LULAC del estado de la Florida, hace público su apoyo a todo intento de desarrollo que se pretenda y se decida hacer en el área de Homestead, una zona del sur de la Florida deprimida económicamente que fue devastada por el ciclón Andrews en agosto de 1992 y donde se encuentra un aeropuerto que fue base de las Fuerzas Aereas de los Estados Unidos.

En "Abriendo Puertas", programa radial que LULAC de la Florida tiene cada sábado a las 9:00 p.m. por La Poderosa 6.70 AM, el sábado 29 de enero, LULAC analizó y debatió ampliamente el tema de Homestead y expresó el apoyo que está dispuesta a ofrecerle a las comunidades latinas que viven en la zona, así como la ayuda que puede representar la presencia de esta organización nacional en el proyecto de desarrollo que se viene estudiando desde hace varios años.

Por los beneficios que puede representar para cientos de familias de origen latino-estadounidense por muchos años en esta región- el desarrollo de esta zona del sur de la Florida; por el notable avance que puede significar en lo económico y social para las minorías que quieren seguir viviendo en Homestead y por el progreso que puede ofrecer para la zona en general, es que LULAC ha decidido apoyar y trabajar en favor del desarrollo de esta comunidad.

LULAC, desde sus inicios y por más de 70 años, ha seguido una política y está convencida que debe apoyar ampliamente todo intento donde exista la posibilidad de incrementar y desarrollar nuevos negocios y empleos que favorezcan el bienestar de las minorías de ciudadanos latinoamericanos en los Estados Unidos. El Congreso, el Presidente, las agencias federales, las uniones y los negocios deben unir fuerzas para asegurar y consolidar cada vez más la presencia latina en las prácticas laborales en toda la nación.

LULAC estima que los negocios y proyectos empresariales, como este de Homestead, donde están involucrados corporaciones y empresas de origen latino, deben ser promovidas y apoyadas fuertemente. Incentivar a los propietarios de pequeños negocios y estimular la inversión en la creación de nuevas pequeñas empresas por parte de las comunidades latinas que viven en los Estados Unidos, ha sido, es y será parte de la filosofía que predica LULAC.

Para comunicarse con LULAC de la Florida, usted puede hacerlo a través de:  
Tel: 305-261-5348 / Fax: 305-267-5200

000007

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-1-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*Don not put yourself of turning Homestead in a Free  
Zone, into an airport  
because of pollution to area  
and I will work to avoid having planes  
flying over the area.  
I understand this.*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO \*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Edward Othard  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 811 Miramonte Lane  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, FL 33087  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: Florida 33087

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicará sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
APBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000008

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-1-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*WE, AS TAXPAYERS, HAVE SPENT MILLIONS  
TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT IN THIS AREA  
WHY WOULD WE HEAR DOWN WHAT WE ARE TRYING  
TO ACCOMPLISH?*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO \*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Sue Crisp  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: P.O. Box 371592  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33087

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COMMENTS

000009

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECCHA: Feb 5, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
I am for retaining the AFB but not putting an airport there. Don't disturb my home by putting an airport at the AFB. I left Miami for that reason over thirty years ago. I hope they are what is said you will damage our greatest asset at the 2 National Parks with which we are blessed with in this area. We should see a demography of ecology by all of the housing projects eating up the precious Spangley. The board are refused to eating up the domestic animals facilities. They should no other way of food it can't let my little people buy the animal for fear they will smother her to death. They should be chosen in the broad nature of this area. Don't be afraid of them now. WE NEED THEM FOR A HEALTHY Ecological System for us to survive. DON'T BE A MEMBER of your grandchild's class will know if you proceed with your plan to buy land as a gift. This land our land will die if you do! STOP SAVE WHAT WE HAVE LEFT

NAME/NOMBRE: M. Elgie Catrill  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 2510 S.W. 131 Ave.  
CITY/CUIDAD: Pinecrest, Fla.  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33192-5814

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FAX: 703-696-8828

peace and quiet down south was ruined because of some airport that I'm sure ~~gone~~ rose of us who live down here want you ~~to~~ to expand on the bus, without an Airport would be smart.

000010

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECCHA: 02/01/00

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NAME/NOMBRE: Rebecca Dvoron  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: Homestead  
CITY/CUIDAD: Homestead, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL

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000011

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECCHA: 2-1-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

PROVIDE LARGER FACILITIES IN WHICH TO HOLD THESE PUBLIC MEETINGS

NAME/NOMBRE: Luis Pineda  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 15511 SW 305 St  
CITY/CUIDAD: Aventura, FL 33203  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000012

GERALD O'BRIENLY  
 OCEAN REEF 106 ANACONDA RD  
 KEY HARBOR FL 33037

OPA LAKA HAS A  
 REMENDOUS FACILITY  
 WHY NOT USE IT.  
 IT HAS WHAAC HOUSES  
 ADEQUATE RUNWAYS AND  
 YOU CAN REPLACE THE  
 COAST GUARD FACILITY.  
 HOPESTAD IS A ECOLOGICAL  
 DISASTER ALSO NIN POINT  
 SOURCE POLLUTION FROM RUN OFF  
 INTO BISAYNE BAY

000013

20827 SW 86 Avenue  
 Miami, Florida 33189

Honestead SEIS  
 AFB/CA/EX  
 1700 N. Moore Street  
 Suite 2300  
 Arlington, Virginia 22209-2809  
 FAX (703) 696-5828

To Whom It May Concern:

I am addressing this as a resident of South Miami Dade County. I am a parent, a grandparent, and as one who actively works to try and make my community a better place to live.

I oppose the development of a commercial airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base.

I have spent my entire adult life insuring that my children and grandchildren eat the proper foods, receive quality education, learn morals and values, adhere to fundamental principals of good citizenship, and accept responsibility. As many parents, I have spent endless hours modifying sore throat, bandaging cuts, and waiting in emergency rooms. I have spent many more hours shopping and preparing healthy meals, becoming educated about anything which could be consumed as potentially hazardous to my family, and taking whatever measures I can to insure that my children and grandchildren will live a quality life in a healthy environment.

I don't believe a commercial airport at Homestead Air Force Base fits that equation.

In my lifetime many of nature's treasures have disappeared. Entire species can now only be identified in historical data. Many species are threatened with extinction. Our waterways are contaminated, our air is polluted, our land is dominated by water and toxic chemicals. Those areas ready aren't unspoiled.

I live in an area that is in the shadow of Mt. Trashmore and the former South Dade landfill. My home is not far from the county's waste water treatment plant. It is within walking distance of detention facilities, housing projects, and failed attempts at more dump sites, electrical towers, and other undesirable projects. We live in an area that has failed economically - only some of which can be blamed on Hurricane Andrew.

I do not believe that a commercial airport, with a projection of over 230,000 annual flights over my neighborhood will enhance my community. I do not believe that a commercial airport, lying within five miles of a nuclear power plant and the site of thousands of nesting birds, will enhance my community. I do not believe that a commercial airport, with no infrastructure and only my tax supported dollars to develop one, will enhance my community. I do not believe that a commercial airport, which promises to endanger Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park, will enhance my community.

CHECK WHAT HAPPENED  
 TO JAMAICA BAY IN NY  
 AFTER IDLE WHALE (KENNEDY)  
 WAS PUT IN FULL OPERATION

I do believe that a plan, which would form a partnership of economy and ecology, of business and pleasure, would enhance my community. I do believe that business people with a reputation as a good neighbor, a history of sound investments and a commitment to the environment, would enhance my community.

We are all here with the same dream. We want to live in a desirable community with a booming economy. It is the methods to achieve that dream that we differ.

I support the proposals being offered by the Collier family. I also support the ideas proposed by Lucy Hoover Chase. I hope that a merger of these ideas will become a reality. I hope so for the sake of my children and grandchildren - and for their children.

Sincerely,  
 Nancy McEue



000018

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 02-01-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

AS A RESIDENT OF KEY LAKER AND ENJOYER  
OF OURS REEF MY OWN COUNSEL IS THE LOUISE AND  
DEBBIE NITZBERG BROTHERS FROM AKAHARA THE DEBBIE  
THIS ACTIVITY WOULD HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
ENJOYER AND THE DENIED SERVICES

NAME/NOMBRE: EDUARDO D. SAIZ  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 39 TOWERS AVE  
CITY/CUIDAD: KEY LAKER, FL.  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL. 33037

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000020

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb 1 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

We have to save the Dinghies -  
the alternative plans with steps  
as many jobs for the Homestead  
Citizens. Hopefully the federal government  
will save the world for the next  
generations

NAME/NOMBRE: MARY CLARK  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 39 TOWERS 7B  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Laker Fla 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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000019

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb 1, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

My husband and I are opposed to  
the construction of the 17th Street  
with the gas and ballroom because  
disrupt local destination to  
neighborhood. The neighborhood  
is going to attract people that  
will benefit people. There are  
pollution and noise for the area  
subject to the environment.

NAME/NOMBRE: Patricia Green  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: Key Largo, Fl. 33057  
CITY/CUIDAD:  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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000021

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I live here. We depend on  
the existing business and big big big big  
business. Our big big big big  
so much as a big big big big  
Please don't destroy it for our future  
generation. Use National Park  
and our trip to preserve. But  
your valuation will be wrong. But  
perhaps - perhaps the government  
depends upon place in the neighborhood.  
I don't want to hear about price  
OR DRINK this new airport proposal.

NAME/NOMBRE: Laurie Stutz  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 1778 NW 5th Ave  
CITY/CUIDAD: Homestead FL 33030  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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COMMENTS

000022

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Dear Reader  
I am very concerned in how the outcome of this project will affect me. I live right under the spot the jets will be flying over. I am proud that I know a lot about Florida, and I'm glad I do. Now I know how the pollution will affect the squibbers that we get drinking water from. Now I know how air pollution can hurt my lungs. Now I know that I don't want a 94% jet coming over my house at 3am in the morning. I spent my last birthday in the Everglades, and I want that to be around for my 11th birthday. I may only be 10 years old, but I know enough that I don't want that airport.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Erin Jaster  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 1698 N.W. 5th Ave, Homestead, FL 33030  
CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL, 33030

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000023

Carlo Ruiz — 639 NW 128 PL MIAMI 33182

-> I (was/am?) moving to Homestead just to get away from the noise, 500T, crazyness, crowds now with an air-port... probably NOT -

-> IS bad real bad Feng-Shui... bad bad bad! energy coming from who knows where, getting into your space... bad vibes!!!

I live five miles off MIA, west of. and can't stand the oily garbage that falls in my house. I clean 'n clean... house!

-> I used to live nearer-east the city and hear this: I'm almost DEAF from the noise those flying monsters make... they woke me up at night make me nervous... mad mad mad!

-> Still, now living west. The disturb my sleep at night and wreck my nerves ALL DAY

??? DO YOU WANT TO TRADE PLACE w/ ME?  
NO.

... and who does think will be getting jobs there?  
They'll TRANSFER the drones from Miami. Jesus! I come to Homestead all the time just to BREATHE CLEAN AIR, SEE STARS 'n rejoice in SILENCE... Don't lose TR.S.

000024

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb. 1, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT USING THIS AIR FORCE FIELD AS A COMMERCIAL FIELD WILL BE VERY HARMFUL TO THE FRAGILE ECO-SYSTEM OF THE EVERGLADES AND THE CORAL REEFS OF THE OCEAN. IT WILL ALSO BE EXTREMELY DELTERIOUS FOR THE TOURISTS AND VISITORS TO TOURIST SITES ON KEY LARGO. THE NOISE FACTOR ALONE, PLUS THE POLLUTION THAT COMES FROM CLIMBING JET AIRPLANES.

FURTHERMORE, FOR THE AIR FORCE TO GIVE THEIR FIELD TO Dade County AND THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS THAT WILL PROFIT FROM IT IS UNCONSCIONABLE.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE GROUPS WILLING TO BUY FOR THAT PROPERTY AND DEVELOP IT INTO HOUSING, ETC. THAT WOULD NOT ENDANGER THE ENVIRONMENT AND SURROUNDING POPULATION AREAS, AND ALSO CREATE MANY JOBS.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Rev. Dr. Donald H. Heinrich  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 64 TARPAN LN  
CITY/CIUDAD: KEY LARGO, FL 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000025

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb. 1, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am very much opposed to making Homestead Air Base into a commercial airport and highly favor any of the alternatives, for those reasons:

- 1) the environmental damage to the two adjacent National Parks and water - Gard Sand Barnes, Florida Bay, etc.
- 2) the greatly increased noise level over the population areas of the Neuse
- 3) the more permanent jobs supplied by the alternatives - especially the Collier
- 4) the moral and political outrage of giving the valuable land away to cronies who stand to make a mint of money.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Mary F. Heinrich  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: P.O. Box 23 (home months on Keylin)  
CITY/CIUDAD: Wayne  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL, 60184

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicarán sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828





000034

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2-1-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

THEY BIN HAD AIR LIGHTS  
THROUGH THE AIR WHEN THE BASE WAS  
HERE WE WED THAT PER FOR THE  
GETTER OF THE PAPER

NAME/NOMBRE: DANIELE LENTS

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 620 NW 7th AVE APT 150

CITY/CUIDAD: SANRADO BCH FLA,  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33060

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000036

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2-1-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Pls don't put in an appeal  
there are some real good alternatives  
that can be coming forward.

NAME/NOMBRE: Dale Gheld

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 15 Savic

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Please, Save the National Park for your  
children. We can't replace the many values  
that Fowles and Biscayne have with man-made  
Coveneration. The United of Miami Earth  
Aid Club begs Homestead not to  
haze a huge culture.

NAME/NOMBRE: Lesley Bloor

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 1233 Dickliss Dr.  
Coral Gables

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33146

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000037

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I understand that the nuclear  
flight path of an aircraft must be constructed to  
withstand crash if the largest plane to use the air port. I  
for her understand that Tuesday 14 Nuclear Power Plant is designed  
to withstand the crash of F14 jets what were flying over it when  
it was built. However, the FBI designed to withstand the a  
crash from the larger jets that would be using  
it if the airport is expanded. This is of great  
concern to me

NAME/NOMBRE: Leola Bivler

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 29 Fishermans Cove Unit B

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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000042

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencia Pública para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
The Collier-Hoover Chase Plan will provide jobs and save the parks. The Collier plan would create an attractive area that would draw tourists and residents - and the world-class aquarium of the Hoover Chase plan (combined with the Collier plan) would be a real drawing card.

The cable airport would irreparably damage the 3 parks that are now the principal reason people

NAME/NOMBRE: Patricia Dent  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 39 Island Dr  
CITY/CUADRA: Key Largo FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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FAX: 703-696-8828

Come here.

000043

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencia Pública para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
THERE CAN BE TOUR WITHOUT DESTROYING A BEAUTIFUL & IMPORTANT ECOLOGY. THE COLLIER PLAN IS BEST

NAME/NOMBRE: D.T. DURY  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 39 ISLAND DR  
CITY/CUADRA: KEY LARGO FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000044

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I LIKE IN KEYLARGO AND AM OPPOSED TO ANY TYPE OF AIRPORT.  
I DO SUPPORT THE LARRY ROOPE CASES PROPOSAL

NAME/NOMBRE: Kent JONES  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 3 OVENING DR  
CITY/CUADRA: KEY LARGO FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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000048

I am opposed to the proposal to develop businesses ARE as a converted airport. I believe the degradation of our quality of life can outweigh the benefits. Lets work on a solution to reuse existing way of life.

Lanana Lancaster  
615 Howard Drive  
Key Largo FL 33037

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

DATE/FECHA: 1-1-00

SEIS IS A FAILED PROJECT  
SAVE OUR PARKS  
NO JOBS WILL BE GOTTEN WITH AIR BASE PARKS  
IT WILL BE USED UP IN COURSE FOR 10-YEARS  
ALTERNATIVE PLANS ARE MUCH BETTER  
AIR PORT DEVELOPERS ARE POLITICAL PLAYS WITH  
LIFE QUALITY IMPACTS THAT POINT DOWN HOW TO RUN  
AN AIRPORT  
THE FIRST ONE'S SUFFICIA A BETTER DEAL

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUO AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: SHELTON MAJUM  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 2908 PAMPAIN CAY  
CITY/CUIDAD: KEY LARGO FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000049

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

DATE/FECHA: 1-1-00

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\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUO AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

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000050

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

DATE/FECHA: 1-1-00

VERY IMPORTANT NOT TO HAVE  
AIRPORT IN HOWARD ROAD FOR ENVIRONMENT  
AND QUALITY OF NATURAL PARKS AREA  
BAD FOR RESTORATION AREAS OF KEEPER KEYS  
ALTERNATIVE LIKE TO LAND WITH PROPOSED TRAILS  
AND BRIDGE PLANS THAT WILL SPREAD THIS REGION

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUO AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: B. MARCO  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 29 PAMPAIN CAY  
CITY/CUIDAD: KEY LARGO  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: Florida 33037

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000051

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

The politicians present today are not representing the people of our state. They are only looking out for their own pockets. They are not interested in the quality of life for the people of our state. They are only interested in the money that they can make. They are not interested in the future of our state. They are only interested in the present. They are not interested in the well-being of the people. They are only interested in the power that they can have. They are not interested in the future of our state. They are only interested in the present. They are not interested in the well-being of the people. They are only interested in the power that they can have.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUO AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: COLLIN BLUM  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 905 TWIN LANE ST  
CITY/CUIDAD: (35) WILKINSON

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COMMENTS

000052

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2-1-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
I am appalled by the fact that the public meeting was a farce and to sell the Airport Dev. It is now 5:15 PM and more from the general public has been a chance to voice their concerns and opinions. I have never seen anyone like this before. The best advice for you is to call the police. We need to stand together and voice our concerns. The police should be called to our attention and if it is not possible for the community to be involved in a meeting that is a farce and we need to stand together and voice our concerns. I will be back.

NAME/NOMBRE: DRENO RIVERA  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: Miami FL 33172 (305) 257-1228  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami FL 33172 (305) 257-1228

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33172 (305) 257-1228  
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000054

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2-1-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
This meeting is a joke.

The persons most concerned with the issue are being totally ignored. The citizens of Keys Gate & other adjacent areas to the base will need to be heard. What a shame & a disgrace to our government.

NAME/NOMBRE: Mrs. Doreen L. Spravis  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 2529 SB 7 Place  
CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33133

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000053

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2/1/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
I came to this meeting to hear and express opinion on this issue - not to hear every person speak!

Here the communities not political BS.

NAME/NOMBRE: Celeste Bennett  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 25316 SW 120th Ave.  
CITY/CIUDAD: Delray Beach  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33432

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
YOU NEED TO SERIOUSLY RE-EVALUATE THE PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS. IT TOOK 2 HOURS FROM THE STATED START TIME OF 5:30 PM FOR ACTIVIZEN TO SPEAK. THE FIRST HOUR OR MORE WAS GIVEN TO SPECIALS. PLEASE CREATE A PROCESS WHERE CITIZENS ARE ALLOWED TO SPEAK AND GIVE INPUT IN A TIMELY MANNER.

NAME/NOMBRE: Bea Gardner  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 3333 HAWAIIAN AVE, #321C  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33133

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COMMENTS

000060

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito
Public Hearing for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

Thank you for your input
Gracias por su participacion

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

The SEIS is a biased statement just back by
Sunbeam specialists who do not fully comprehend
the full extent that this airport will have on the
environment. As a student of Environmental Science
at FIU and an employee at the construction management
firm at the Miami International Airport I have a strong
understanding of the environmental impact of an airport.
Commercial Airport and strongly feel that this Airport
will be detrimental to the surrounding environment.
There are other ways to locate this in this community
and there are other more appropriate locations for a Commercial
Airport.

NAME/NOMBRE: Christine Cairns

CITY/CUADRO: Miami FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in
the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered comment is prohibited.
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Please hand this form to: MAIL SERVICES March 7, 2000 to:
Homestead SEIS
Attn: Public Hearing, Suite 2300
Arlington, VA 22209-2802
Fax: 703-696-8828

000062

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito
Public Hearing for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

Thank you for your input
Gracias por su participacion

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I oppose building a commercial airport at the
Home Street Air Force Base. The impact on the Everglades
National Park and Pristine Wetland Park would destroy
these parks forever. The noise pollution would severely
impact the wetlands. I have that lives in these parks
would be impacted. The parks would be destroyed
to the point where the birds would be driven
to the parks and birds of flight would die
directly over the parks. Additionally the airport
noise would have a negative impact on the community
of Homestead. Furthermore, the agricultural industry
would be impacted not to mention the loss of thousands
of jobs for agricultural workers. Homestead would
become another Miami with increased congestion and
traffic problems. There are other proposals that would
provide as many jobs as the airport - and better quality
jobs. For some reason, the politicians in Miami would
rather have some selfish projects like the airport, which
others have sacrificed their lives for. Who's priority are
the politicians? MAIL SERVICES, who's priority are
the citizens? MAIL SERVICES. Who's priority are
the citizens? MAIL SERVICES. Who's priority are
the citizens? MAIL SERVICES.

NAME/NOMBRE: Debbie Granbo

CITY/CUADRO: Miami

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL FL 33157

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in
the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered comment is prohibited.

Please hand this form to: MAIL SERVICES March 7, 2000 to:
Homestead SEIS
Attn: Public Hearing, Suite 2300
Arlington, VA 22209-2802
Fax: 703-696-8828

Final SEIS

000061

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito
Public Hearing for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

Thank you for your input
Gracias por su participacion

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

The airport should not be built in Homestead
because the traffic would be terrible. The great
community that Homestead is today will be gone
forever. The airport will call for build hotels,
a government building, and pollution also that
comes with the noise. The development that lives
around the airport will be gone. The community
will be gone. The airport will be a disaster.
The airport will be a disaster. The airport
will be a disaster. The airport will be a disaster.

NAME/NOMBRE: Luis Garcia

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 1960 Astor Ct.

CITY/CUADRO: Miami

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL FL 33184

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Se publicara sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su direccion personal si no desea que esta aparezca
en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta informacion es considerado como un comentario para publicarla.

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Fax: 703-696-8828

000063

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito
Public Hearing for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

DATE/FECHA: 2/2/00

Thank you for your input
Gracias por su participacion

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

OLD BEAR OF MANUEL DIAZ EARLS
AS A FARMING EQUITY IN SOUTH DAKOTA
WE REQUEST THE IMMEDIATE DEVELOP
MENT OF THE BASE AS A COMMERCIAL
AIRPORT

NAME/NOMBRE: Lourdes Rodriguez for Manuel Diaz Earls, Inc

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 23305 SW 112 Ave

CITY/CUADRO: Homestead FL 33032

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in
the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered comment is prohibited.

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Homestead SEIS
Attn: Public Hearing, Suite 2300
Arlington, VA 22209-2802
Fax: 703-696-8828

W-18

000064

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

The SEIS was written by Aviation consultants, not by environmental scientists. It is biased towards the HAPB plan, which does not belong in an agricultural community. Jobs can be provided through other uses of the land, such as environmentally damaging...

CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE
CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO

NAME/NOMBRE: John M. Fortuin
ADDRESS/DIRECCION:
CITY/CIUDAD: Dade County, FLA
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS.

Se publicará sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS
AFBCA/EX
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300
Arlington, VA 22209-2802
FAX: 703-696-8828



CHARLES A. ALDEN, Landscape Architect, A.S.L.A.
7905 Southwest 162 Street, Miami, Florida 33157 (305) 251-1668
19 Claven Lane, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648 LA 0000571

000065

MEMORANDUM

19 January 2000

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - John J. Corradetti, Jr.
FR: Charles A. Alden, ASLA/AICP, Landscape Architect/Planner
RE: Draft Supplemental E.I.S. for Homestead Air Force Base, Florida

As an interested citizen and a Board member of both the Dade/Monroe (Gold Coast) Section of the American Planning Association (APA) and the Urban Environment League of Greater Miami, I've taken some time to carefully review the above document, dated December 1999. In this review, I have intentionally focused on the biocentric aspects of the Report, rather than the anthropocentric or human issues of employment, aesthetics, transportation, etc. I've taken this approach because Biscayne Bay and Everglades National Park are both unique, non-renewable, irreplaceable, especially sensitive, natural environments and should, in my judgement, be accorded over-riding priority of care and protection.

Accordingly, I have attempted at the outset to comprehend the initial statements made in the Report section titled "Protection of Nearby National Parks". In analyzing the language of the National Park Service "Organic Act", as presented, and, in focusing on the biological aspects of the Report, I have extracted the following clear, direct statement: "The fundamental purpose... (of the Act)... is to conserve the... objects and wildlife therein... (within the National Park System) ... by such means as will leave them unimpaired".

The Report states the National Park Service interpretation that the... "resources to remain unimpaired... include(s) natural soundscapes, air, water, wildlife". It is left to be assumed, perhaps, that vegetation, soil, geology, light and other elements of the natural environment are incidentally covered or included as part of this interpretation.

Thereafter, the Report acknowledges, as extracted and simplified, that these "values and resources... (as) interrelated components of the environment... are influenced by... the alteration and intrusion on... (the) quality of air, water, habitat... solitude and natural quiet".

I conclude that the Report, in fact, states the purpose of the "Organic Act" is to "conserve and leave" the "interrelated components of the environment" as defined, "unimpaired". I conclude that the Report also states, in fact that "the interrelated components of the environment" are "influenced by... the alteration and intrusion on...".

page one of four

MEMORANDUM

Department of the Air Force, 19 January 2000
Page two of four

these values and resources". The verb "to impair" is defined as "to diminish in value, quantity or quality". Clearly then, the Organic Act and its interpretation by the National Park Service is intended to prevent the components of the Park System from being diminished in "value, quantity or quality".

The attached tables illustrate the extent to which this mandate is or is not met by the two viable alternatives discussed in the Report. This tabular data was extracted, with some considerable effort, from pages 38-53 of the draft supplemental E.I.S. document. In examining the data, it can be concluded that:

- 1. There are (16) instances in which no equivalent, comparable data is presented for the Mixed-Use Alternative.
2. There are (10) instances in which the Mixed-Use Alternative has no impact, while the Airport Alternative has some or some substantial negative impact.
3. There are (6) instances in which the Mixed-Use Alternative is not even addressed with comment, while the Airport Alternative has some negative impact.
4. There are (5) instances in which the Mixed-Use Alternative is not even addressed with comment, while the Airport is said to cause no change or, in one instance, some impact reduction.
5. There are (4) instances in which the Mixed-Use Alternative will have no attributable change, while (noise) data is merely presented, without companion, impact assessment information, for the Airport Alternative.
6. There are (5) instances in which the Mixed-Use Alternative will have no attributable change, while the Airport will have some negative (noise) impact.
7. There are (6) instances in which the Airport will have negative impacts greater than the Mixed-Use Alternative by factors of: 5.4; 5.5; 6; 2.9; 5.3; and 10 times greater.
8. There are (8) instances in which the Airport will have negative impacts with percentage increases, over existing conditions, of: 10-20%; 43%; 28%; 13-14%; 23%; 1.200%; 3.000% and 8.6%.

In view of the negative impacts attributable to the Airport Alternative; the extent of those impacts upon existing conditions; the deficiency in data presented for the Mixed-Use Alternative; the wide disparity of impacts between the "Organic Act", as presented; and in view of my understanding of the alternatives when presented; and as interpreted by the Park Service, it is inconceivable to me that this Report could refer to the Airport as the "Proposed Action". It is perhaps fortuitous that it is nowhere stated that the Airport should be preferred, approved or implemented. This omission is the one indication that even those preparing the Report comprehend the unsuitability of the "Proposed Action" Airport Alternative. end

page two of four

Comparative Analysis
Draft Supplemental E.I.S.
Homestead A.F.B.

Biscayne National Park - 2015 Impacts Summary

Table with 3 columns: Factor Presented, Airport Alt., Mixed-Use Alt. Rows include Development Rate, Nitrogen Oxide Contribution, Stormwater Runoff, Bay Discharge of Runoff, Groundwater Nitrogen Discharge, Secondary Canal Water Discharge, Ave. Airborne Nitrogen Oxide, Annual Atmosph. Nitrogen Deposition, Annual Shore Atmos-Nitro Deposition, Grnd. Level Poly. Aromatic Hydrocar., Noise LAmx, Leg(h), TAmx, Nutrient/Pollutant Canal In-put, Groundwater Amonia In-puts, Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition, Nearshore Biota Impacts, Canal Sediment Toxicity, Manatee Impacts, Crocodile Impacts, Wading Bird Feeding, Loafing, Roosting, Nesting.

\* assumes implementation of Surface Water Management Master Plan

page three of four

COMMENTS

Comparative Analysis  
Draft Supplemental E.I.S.  
Homestead A.F.B.

Everglades National Park - 2015 Impacts Summary

Factor Presented	Airport Alt.	Mixed-Use Alt.
Night Sky Ambient Light	Lgt. Intrusion	no data
Nitrogen Oxide Emissions	(+) 1.0%	lower than
Atmospheric Nitrogen	(+) .43kg/hc	(+) .08kg/hc
"	(-) 8.0%	(+) 1.1%
Noise Lmax	(+) 5-10 db	no impact
Leg(h) - east Glades	(+) 5-10 db	"
Leg(h) - west approach	(+) 5 db	"
TAamb - east Glades	(+) 110 mins.	"
"	(+) 1200%	"
TAamb - west Glades	(+) 30 mins.	"
"	(+) 3000%	"
TAamb - near runway	(+) 102 mins.	"
Wading Bird Feeding	may relocate	"
Loafing	"	"
LAmx / east sparrow population	(+) 8.6%	no data
"	63 db	"
LAmx / Ingraham sparrow population	45 db	"
LAmx / west sparrow population	60 db	"
TAamb / east sparrow population	(+) 1200%	"
TAamb / Ingraham sparrow population	no data	"
TAamb / west sparrow population	(+) 3000%	"
East sparrow population - breeding	disrupted by	"
West sparrow population - breeding	LAmx/TAamb	"
Masking effect on sparrow population	disrupted by	"
	LAmx	"
	?	"

page four of four

000066

VISION COUNCIL COMMENTS

By President, Dick Bauer  
SEIS Public Hearing  
Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Good Evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Dick Bauer, President of the Vision Council and Vision Foreign Trade Zone. The council is a local public/private economic development organization located in Homestead and representing a significant portion of the business community here in South Dade. Our service area includes the air base and the surrounding municipalities of Homestead and Florida City. Our trade zone authority originates with the U.S. Department of Commerce and currently covers certain lands within the City of Homestead. We are obligated under this federal authority to encourage and expedite commerce.

To begin, we congratulate the Air Force and FAA for their efforts in preparing this decision document. As in any EIS, this product has both procedural and qualitative elements. After review, we believe the product meets all procedural requirements when viewed from this community's standpoint. We also believe that all qualitative elements bearing on a responsible decision have been identified. Further, we are comfortable that the methods and tools used in analyzing these elements represent the use of reasonable and current standards, meeting the full intent of NEPA. We recognize that others may have different opinions on this, particularly as it relates to noise and resource impacts. We are concerned that attempts to discredit this work by raising such objections will affect and encumber all the options studied, and result in further delays in restoring our deserved economic vitality in South Dade.

We also recognize that controversy exists regarding certain polls which show community support for a commercial airport. We are not in a position to contribute to that controversy, or judge the validity of the polls. But I will tell you that, on balance, the sense which I get from daily contacts with the local community supports the proposed action.

With that said, it is our opinion at this time, that the proposed action (commercial airport) represents the best means of meeting the overall needs of our community. The economic impact, if the plan is followed, will be very substantial and positive for our community. The reasonably foreseeable environmental consequences on our community, if the remedial steps outlined in the EIS are implemented, is bearable.

On balance, we thus support the proposed transfer to Miami-Dade County for the purposes of establishing a commercial airport.

Thank you for your attention.

000067

Ray Fernandez  
South Dade Investment Group, Inc.  
9950 SW 155<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33196

Office: (305) 388-4916

Fax: (305) 388-6634

Consulting Agreement

This agreement is entered into on July 12, 1999 between South Dade Investment Group, Inc. (EIN: 65-0447332) and the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce, 43 N. Krome Avenue Homestead, Florida 33030

This consulting engagement will consist of a telephone survey to 300 residences in the South Dade area. The question to be used in the survey will be as follows:

"Do you support commercial aviation as part of South Dade's economic redevelopment of Homestead Air Force Base?"

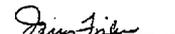
Calls will be conducted during the week of July 19-23, 1999 and in order to get a true picture of the South Dade area feeling on this topic we will be using a proportionally stratified random sample.

Once the data is collected and analyzed, we will provide a written executive summary of the results.

The executive summary will reference zip codes used, percentages of yes and no answers, appropriate confidence intervals for the proportion of yes and no answers at the 80%, 90% and 95% confidence levels, and respective errors of estimation.

The executive summary will be delivered to your office no later than July 30, 1999.

  
Ray Fernandez  
for S.D.I.G., Inc.

  
Mary Fishan  
For Homestead/Florida City  
Chamber of Commerce

Executive Summary

Last month our firm was contacted by the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce to conduct a survey of South Miami-Dade residents. The survey consisted of finding the proportion of residents who supported commercial aviation as part of South Dade's economic redevelopment of Homestead Air force Base.

For purposes of this survey, the South Dade area was defined as all streets south of southwest 216 street and all avenues east of southwest 277 avenue. The postal zip-codes of interest were: 33170, 33190, 33030, 33031, 33032, 33033, 33034, and 33035 (see Exhibit A for a map of areas surveyed.)

It was determined that 33,976 residential phone numbers were available in the zip-codes of interest for this survey. Their breakdown was as follows:

33170:	2598	33032:	5787
33190:	1593	33033:	8549
33030:	8138	33034:	3850
33031:	2083	33035:	1378

Total: 33,976

In order to arrive at a representative sample of all eight zip-codes of interest, we felt that a proportionally stratified random sample would be the best approach to follow for this survey. A proportionally stratified random sample is one which randomly selects observations (in this case phone numbers) in the same proportion as they appear in the sub-samples of interest (in this case zip-codes.)

A total of 864 phone calls were made in order to reach the desired 300 responses. All phone calls were made between the hours of 5:00pm and 8:30pm during the week of July 19-23, 1999.

The outcome of the calls' breakdown was as follows:

• no answer/answering machine/refused	429
• no opinion or knowledge	135
• "yes" responses	208
• "no" responses	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>864</b>

Telephone callers were given a script that read as follows: "Good evening, sir or madam, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ I am calling you on behalf of the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce to get your response to an important question to South Dade residents. I will only be asking you a single question, may I? Do you support commercial aviation as part of South Dade's economic redevelopment of Homestead Air force Base? Thank you for your response."

Zip-Code	Calls Made	Responses*	Yes	No
33170	64	24	10	14
33190	74	14	10	4
33030	154	72	56	16
33031	68	18	10	8
33032	168	50	36	14
33033	174	76	56	20
33034	130	34	24	10
33035	32	12	6	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>92</b>

\*Responses were targeted to be in the same proportion as available residential phone numbers per zip-code.

Listed below are the percentage of "yes" responses by zip-code.

Zip-Code	% of "Yes" Responses
33170	42%
33190	71%
33030	78%
33031	56%
33032	72%
33033	74%
33034	71%
33035	50%

While no attempt was made to study the statistical significance of the difference in "yes" responses by zip-code, we felt that this information would be useful to your organization.

Survey Conclusion

**Question:** "Do you support commercial aviation as part of South Dade's economic redevelopment of Homestead Air force Base?"

**Results:** % of yes responses 69.3%  
% of no responses 30.7%

Confidence Interval Estimates:

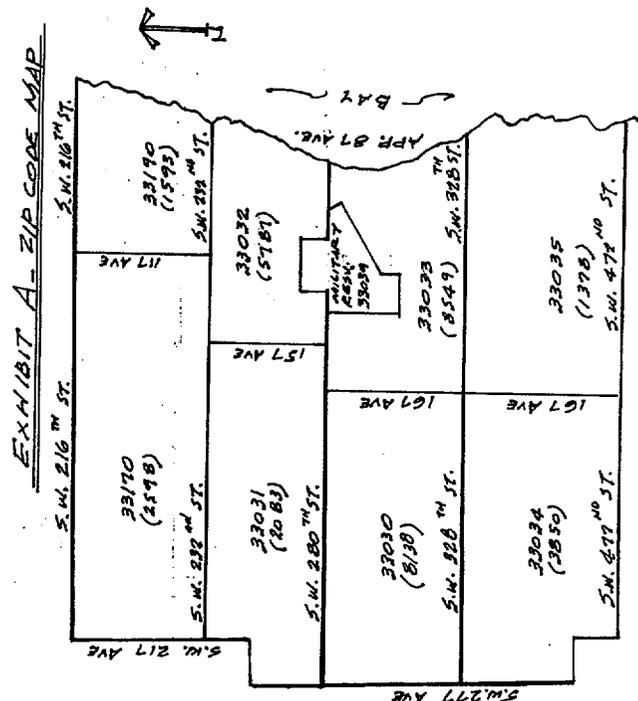
80%:	65.9% - 72.7%
90%:	64.9% - 73.7%
95%:	64.1% - 74.5%
98%:	63.1% - 75.5%
99%:	62.4% - 76.2%

The most common confidence interval to be used in surveys of this type is the 95% confidence estimate. Using this level of confidence, we conclude that between 64.1% and 74.5% of South Dade residents support commercial aviation as part of South Dade's economic redevelopment of Homestead Air force Base.

The error of estimation attributable to this estimate is plus or minus 5.2%.

**Conclusion:** Our best estimate as to the proportion of South Dade residents who support commercial aviation as part of South Dade's economic redevelopment of Homestead Air force Base is:

69.3% with a margin of error of +/- 5.2%



000068



**Homestead Regional Airport  
The Best Plan for South Miami-Dade County**

**Prepared for:**

**Special Hearings on the Draft Supplemental Environmental  
Impact Statement**

**Prepared by:  
The Beacon Council**

**Presented by:  
Frank R. Nero, President and CEO  
The Beacon Council**

**February 1, 2000**

Homestead Air Force Base was officially realigned on March 31, 1994. Prior to this official realignment, the air force base had been severely damaged by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Following the Hurricane, community leaders under the leadership of Larry Hawkins, Pedro Reboredo, George Knox and Will Rudd undertook a major study to determine the best use of Homestead Air Force Base, if, it were no longer an active U.S. air base.

The study funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, managed by the Beacon Council and conducted by Arthur Andersen and PBS&J, utilized input from a broad base of South Miami-Dade citizens. This detailed report titled *Homestead Air Force Base and South Dade Business Development and Marketing Plan* was completed and reported to the community on November 1, 1994.

The vision, expressed in this report, was to expand and diversify the economy of South Miami-Dade to become a significant component of a regional hemispheric hub in the global economy. The basic conclusion and recommended growth strategy was to develop Homestead Air Force Base as a dual-use (military and civilian) regional reliever airport.

The basic premise was that air and cargo capacity at Miami International Airport (MIA) would be reached during the first 5 to 10 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Homestead Air Force Base as a redesigned regional airport would serve as a compliment to air traffic at MIA. The kinds of aviation industries expected to be established at Homestead Regional Airport were 1) general aviation, 2) aircraft maintenance and overhaul, 3) express cargo, 4) commercial passenger service and 5) airfreight. In addition, aviation education and training operations were also included.

The economic benefits to this aviation cluster included 1) above average wages, 2) relatively large employment and, 3) relatively large business revenues, leading to larger employment and income multipliers.

This original report provides some accurate forecasts regarding the future situation at MIA. In 1992, 26.5 million passengers used MIA. By 1998, the total passengers were just under 34.0 million, a 28 percent increase. Total passengers are forecast to reach 48 million in 2005.

Likewise, the total tonnage of air cargo has increased from 1.1 million tons in 1992 to nearly 2.0 million tons in 1998 and is forecast to reach 4.0 million tons by 2005. This rapid growth in MIA airline passengers and freight has placed increased demand on aircraft maintenance and overhaul, plus manufacturing of new aircraft and aircraft parts.

The rapid growth in passenger service has increased the need to train new and retain existing human resources to manage and operate the aviation industry.

In 1999, The Beacon Council and the Miami-Dade Aviation Department conducted an aviation industry study. Based on the aviation industry leaders conclusions, the following industry needs must be addressed. First, the aviation industry needs more facilities. Since no additional aviation operations can be located at MIA, Miami-Dade County's general and regional airports must be developed. Second, The Beacon Council was asked to establish an aircraft maintenance and overhaul retention and expansion program to assist local businesses find additional space. Finally, the aviation industry needs more qualified workers. Workforce development is required in all skill levels, but particularly in skilled A&P mechanics.

Basically, the 1999 Aviation Report verifies the industry needs as envisioned in the 1994 Homestead Air Force reuse plan. In short, developing a regional airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base would assist in meeting the resource needs of the aviation industry today and in the future.

Economic advantages of the Homestead regional airport over the competing use of the land are both quantitative and qualitative. At least four other alternative land use plans were considered and outlined as strategies for increasing employment and quality of life in the Greater Homestead area. They include 1) The Homestead Regional Airport, 2) Commercial

Spaceport, 3) Market-driven growth, 4) Collier Plan and 5) Hoover Environmental Plan. All plans were compared to a current "do nothing or no plan approach."

Doing nothing or following a no build plan approach for the former Homestead Air Force Base is the least attractive community growth strategy. I am pleased that we are at least talking about alternative development strategies. Given the findings of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, no reason exists to do nothing. The Greater Homestead Area can achieve the vision of the 1994 Plan, i.e., expand and diversify its economy to become a significant component of a regional hemispheric hub in the global economy. Of the action plans, we believe developing the former Homestead Air Force Base as a regional Airport is in the best interest of Greater Homestead and for that matter all of Miami-Dade County.

The Beacon Council supports the Homestead Regional Airport because the plan will create more and higher paying jobs and the environmental concerns can be contained and resolved. We believe that economic growth and earned income is in many respects as important as environmental considerations. There is no quality of life if you don't have a job. While environmental issues are important, they should be balanced with economic issues. And based on the findings of the SEIS, the two issues jobs and environment can be resolved using the Homestead Regional Airport plan.

The Homestead Regional Airport is forecast to establish 13,200 on-site jobs by 2015 and 14,000 off-site jobs (Table 1). The four aviation industries: 1)aircraft and parts manufacturing, 2) scheduled airlines, 3) unscheduled airlines and 4) airport services, had a 1998 unweighted average income of \$34,200 (Table 2).

Recently, the Collier Plan and the Hoover plan have merged. Their combined efforts are expected to create a larger number of jobs than each separately. Some aspects of the two plans are similar, thus, the total number of expected is most likely less than the sum of the two plans separately. Even if the total job numbers were identical, the wage level is far less.

For example, the unweighted average annual income from the retail, hotel, movie theater and amusement and recreation industry was \$19,000 in 1998. These industries and accompanying wages are typical of employment resulting from the merged Collier and Hoover plans.

Any of the proposed development plans will have some negative environmental impact. All plans will require preventative steps to protect the environment, we acknowledge the Homestead Regional Airport will require more stringent safeguards. However, the economic return to the Greater Homestead Community is far greater with the airport plan.

Finally, this community needs to develop this regional airport or lose new job growth to other Florida Counties. If we do not have airport facilities to accommodate the aviation growth, businesses will be unable to expand in Miami-Dade County. They will relocate. Jacksonville's Cecil Field (a situation I am quite familiar with) is already up and running. They have funding to provide an aviation industry education center. Since trained aviation workers are essential to growth this is a big plus for aviation businesses to relocate to Cecil Field.

The Beacon Council supports the Homestead Regional Airport Plan because it will 1) create more jobs, 2) higher paying jobs, and 3) the opportunity to expand the aviation industry locally, rather than other Florida counties. We acknowledge the need for stringent environmental controls, and we believe these controls are available and will be put in place to protect our most important asset, the beauty of our state and national parks.

In closing, let me acknowledge that any plan will demand the protection of our environment. Quality of life is a concern. But let me say that there is little quality of life without a job. We are developing a plan that will impact this economy for decades to come. We must do it right, based on the facts. Citizens of the Greater Homestead Area, and all of Miami-Dade County deserve the best we can do. We believe and support the Homestead Regional Airport plan because it is the best.

Table 1.  
Estimated Employment Over Baseline for Alternative Homestead Air Force Base Development, Selected Years

Alternatives	Employment Estimates		
	Year		Full
	2005	2015	Build-out
<b>Homestead Regional Airport</b>			
On-site	2,200	13,200	17,500
Off-site	--	14,000	--
<b>Commercial Spaceport</b>			
On-site	2,300	5,000	6,600
Off-site	2,100	4,900	6,400
<b>Market-Driven</b>			
On-site	--	4,400	12,000
Off-site	--	4,700	--
<b>Collier Plan</b>			
On-site	1,900	--	6,800
Off-site	--	4,700	--
<b>Hoover Environmental</b>			
On-site	2,600	6,500	11,000
Off-site	--	8,000	--

Source: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Dec. 1999

Table 2.

Homestead Regional Airport Plan

Average Annual Industry and Average Hourly Occupational Wages, Miami-Dade County, 1998

Industry	Average Annual Industry Wage
Private sector all jobs	\$29,958
Aircraft and parts manufacturing	39,979
Scheduled airlines	41,493
Unscheduled airlines	32,447
Airport services	22,834
Occupation	Hourly Salary
Aeronautical Engineer	24.34
Air Traffic Control	28.62
Travel Clerk	16.30
Ticket Agent	12.19
Flight Attendant	18.99
Transportation Attendant	6.16
Aircraft Mechanic	16.91
Aircraft Engine Specialist	13.51
Aircraft Structure Assembler	16.09

Source: Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security

Table 3.

Collier Plan

Average Annual Industry and Average Hourly Occupational Wages Miami-Dade County, 1998

Industry	Average Annual Industry Wage
Hotels	\$19,804
Retail	18,315
Amusement and Recreation	29,824
Movie theaters	8,417
Occupation	Hourly Wage
Food Service and Lodging Manager	\$14.96
Travel Clerk	16.30
Hotel Desk Clerk	8.04
Host and Hostess, Restaurant, Lounge	7.02
Food Service	6.36
Cook, Restaurant	9.01

Source: Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security

# COMMENTS

## Miami-Dade County's Aviation Technologies Taskforce Report Issues, Solutions, Strategy and Action Steps



November 22, 1999  
Prepared by: The Beacon Council  
80 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2400,  
Miami, FL 33130  
(305) 579-1300



Table 1.  
Miami-Dade County  
Aviation Related Businesses  
1988 and 1997

Industry	1988		1997	
	Business	Employment	Business	Employment
Air passenger and cargo	146	23,703	254	24,241
Aviation Terminal Services	101	3,357	160	5,565
Aircraft parts and maintenance	26	1,826	43	2,951
Total	273	28,886	457	32,757

Source: Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security ES202 Reports.

The growth in passenger and cargo adds to the demand for more aviation personnel training, more aircraft and parts, more maintenance, more overhauls, and larger airports.

### Miami International Airport

To meet the growing demand for air transportation services, Miami-Dade County's Aviation Department is conducting a major (\$5.3 billion) capital improvement program at Miami International Airport. The dimensions of this expansion are shown in Table 2.

Some examples are: terminal space which will more than double, retail space will double, jet gates will be increased by 12, and cargo lease space will more than double. Air passengers are expected to increase by nearly 15 million by 2005 and freight will more than double.

The bottom line, Miami-Dade County's Aviation Department has correctly analyzed the trends and is building for the future.

Page 2.



## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S AVIATION INDUSTRY

### Industry Overview

Miami-Dade County airports and related industries are a major economic component of the area's economy. In 1998, over 51 billion dollars of merchandise trade was handled through the Miami Customs District, approximately one-half of this value is transported through Miami International Airport.

Also, in 1998, nearly 10 million visitors spent at least one night in the Miami-Dade County area. Over 95 percent of all visitors arrived by air through Miami International Airport.

Further, the aviation industry including airlines (passenger and cargo), terminal air support services, aircraft parts and component manufacturing, aircraft engine repair, and pilot training directly employed nearly 33,000 people during 1997. The employees earned more than 1.2 billion dollars in wages and salaries.

In sum, the aviation industry is both a facilitator to the area's largest economic sectors (visitors and trade) and a major direct employer.

### Aviation Trends

Air transportation (domestic and international) has had an excellent growth rate in the past three years. The primary factor determining the profitability of the domestic airline industry is the state of the U.S. and world economies. Growth in air transport services is forecasted to increase four percent annually over the next 10 years.

The growth in air transport service demands will place challenges on the airlines providing the service and the airports providing their base of operations. During the next several years, the industry must confront and solve safety and security issues, congested airports, strained air traffic control systems, and the need to purchase expensive new aircraft to meet environmental regulations and technological changes.

Adding to these industry challenges, the law will require that older jets are either phased out completely or significantly modified by the end of this century.

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Table 2.  
Miami International Airport  
Capital Improvement Program

Terminal	Unit	1996	2005
Total Terminal	Mil. sq. ft.	4.3	9.1
Retail and concessions	sq. ft.	250,000	500,000
Number of Gates	Jet gates	109	121
Fed. Insp. stations	sq. ft.	140,000	730,000
FIS processing capacity	Pass./hr.	3,500	11,100
Landside			
Parking spaces		6,877	10,150
Airside			
Aircraft parking	Mil. sq. ft.	3.4	5.8
Runways		3	4
Cargo			
Leaseable space	Mil. sq. ft.	1.4	3.0
Traffic			
Passenger	Millions	33.5	48.0
Freight	Million tons	1.7	4.0
Annual Air Operations	Thousands	557	685

### The Issues

For the short-term, Miami International Airport is being expanded within and upon itself, i.e., building a new airport on an old airport. This construction is producing growing pains for airline service providers, cargo handlers, and air passengers. The result of constructing a new airport over an existing airport has created more congestion, more decisions (some may be not made on a timely basis) and uncertainty regarding the future plans of airport related businesses.

For the long-term, the issues related to construction should be solved. However, some existing Miami International Airport businesses may be removed and forced to relocate.

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The process of relocating existing airport businesses also presents challenges for aviation staff and economic development organizations such as The Beacon Council.

In this climate of change, The Beacon Council and the Miami-Dade Aviation Department launched a study to determine a) the issues facing aviation related businesses b) the action steps necessary to assure continued growth of aviation businesses and c) which community organizations are best suited to carry out these actions.

The study was modeled after the community-wide strategic economic growth plan of One Community One Goal. In fact, this study complements the recommendations and actions outlined in OCOG's Merchandise Trade and Visitor Industry reports. The Miami-Dade County and Related Aviation Industry report used the same methodology to reach its action steps.

Like other OCOG reports an industry taskforce was established and an industry's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis was analyzed. Issues were obtained through an industry survey and personal interviews and conclusions were reached by taskforce consensus. The intent of this report is to incorporate the recommended action steps into the One Community One Goal evaluation, assignment and monitoring process.

**Mission**

To increase support of Miami-Dade County's airports and related aviation industries and increase the number of jobs and skilled employees in the following industries: airline passenger, cargo and express freight, aircraft maintenance and overhaul, aircraft component manufacturing, pilot training and aviation education and technical training.

**Objective 1. Establish an aviation recruitment, expansion and retention program to identify, attract and retain aviation related businesses.**

**Strategy 1. Expand aviation businesses on Miami-Dade County's general/regional airports.**

Miami International Airport (MIA) is establishing a fourth runway to increase passenger and cargo capacity. Some of the existing MIA aviation businesses will be required to vacate their location. Adding any additional aviation related businesses at MIA is very unlikely. Thus, establishing new facilities at the general/regional airports is key to expanding or attracting certain aviation maintenance businesses. Aviation business organizations, chambers of commerce and The Beacon Council must support the Airports Systems Plan, which calls for the expansion of airport facilities at the general aviation airports.

Until additional aviation facilities are established, retaining and expanding local aviation businesses should receive first priority. To understand and accommodate these businesses growth needs, an industry survey should be conducted. Based on these needs, the appropriate organizations will provide business assistance.

**Strategy 2. Develop and conduct a state and local incentive information program, thus assisting in reducing operating costs and facilitating growth.**

Several state and local business incentive programs are available to aviation businesses. These incentives include the State of Florida's 1) Qualified Target Industry, 2) Quick Training Response and 3) the Transportation Fund. Typically, businesses are not familiar with these incentive programs. Aviation incentive workshops organized by economic development organizations and the appropriate government agencies will be conducted.

**Strategy 3. Establish a pilot simulation training recruitment program**

Miami-Dade County currently has four major pilot simulation training businesses. They are either expanding or have recently completed expansion. As the demand for air travel increases so will the need to provide pilot simulation training and re-training. The "Top Five" list of worldwide airlines should be developed, a marketing campaign planned, undertaken and personal visits made.

**Strategy 4. Establish an aircraft maintenance, overhaul and manufacturing component recruitment program.**

The demand for aircraft maintenance (including aircraft engines), overhaul and component manufacturing grows as the airline industry grows. Needed is a proactive program to recruit these new businesses to Miami-Dade County.

Appropriate marketing materials will need to be prepared including: facilities, labor force, potential incentives and other supporting information to explain and sell aircraft maintenance, overhaul and component manufacturers to expand into Miami-Dade County.

After marketing materials are produced and distributed, development trips should be undertaken to meet with these types of aviation businesses. A focus of Latin American airlines should be considered.

**Issues Addressed**

- Lack of industry-wide approach to issues, problems and promotions.
- High cost of doing business.
- Increase the number of repair and maintenance facilities.
- No cluster of aviation manufacturing.

Action Plan	Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
	Objective 1. Establish an aviation recruitment, expansion and retention program to attract and retain aviation related businesses.	Expand aviation businesses on Miami-Dade County's general/regional airports.	1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2. The Beacon Council 3. Aviation Organizations
	Strategy 1.	Support the Airports Systems Plan.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Aviation Organizations 3. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
		Survey aviation businesses to determine growth needs.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
		Provide assistance to growth businesses.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
		Prepare a comparative cost of competing international and general airports.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
	Strategy 2.	Market the capabilities of the area's general aviation airports. Develop and conduct a state and local incentives information program, thus assisting in reducing operating costs and facilitating growth.	1. The Beacon Council

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
Strategy 3.	Host a series' of workshops to explain incentive programs and benefits to aviation businesses.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Aviation Organizations 3. State and local governments
	Provide assistance to aviation businesses seeking incentives.	1. The Beacon Council
	Establish a pilot simulation training recruitment program.	
	Prepare a report on the current simulation training centers.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
Strategy 4.	Establish a simulation recruitment team of aviation professionals to provide intelligence regarding potential expansion opportunities.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Aviation Industry Representatives
	Identify the "Top 5" projects.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Aviation Industry Representatives
	Prepare appropriate marketing materials.	1. The Beacon Council
	Visit the "Top 5" prospects.	1. The Beacon Council
	Establish an aircraft maintenance, overhaul and manufacturing component recruitment program.	

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
Strategy 3.	Prepare an aviation report on the existing aviation maintenance, overhaul and manufacturing components industries.	1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
	Establish a recruitment advisory team of aviation professionals to provide intelligence regarding potential expansion/relocation business opportunities.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Aviation Industry Representatives
	Identify at least 50 possible aviation maintenance, overhaul or aviation component manufacturers.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Aviation Industry Representatives
	Prepare appropriate marketing materials.	1. The Beacon Council
	Send marketing material to the identified business, initiate follow-up and visit at least five businesses.	1. The Beacon Council

\*"Responsible Parties" indicates the organization that has accepted the lead responsibility for completing the task. The organization will seek other community/industry organization and individuals to assist in these tasks.

Objective 2. Enhance the business climate between Miami-Dade County and the related aviation businesses.

Strategy 1. Appoint a study team, reporting to the highest Miami-Dade County authorities, to assess and recommend policies which would improve communications and decisions between County officials and aviation businesses.

The tremendous growth in the Miami-Dade Aviation Industry has led to the rapid expansion of Miami International Airport and its general aviation airports. This growth has created a situation where effective communications between the Airport and the aviation business have been diminished.

A review of what is being done and what needs to be done to improve the communications between the Airport authorities and aviation businesses is needed.

Strategy 2. Streamline the permitting process associated with starting, expanding or relocating aviation businesses and create a one-stop process among the local regulatory agencies.

The permitting issue continues to be among the top issues and concerns of expanding Miami-Dade County businesses. The aviation businesses also have expressed their frustration with slow response and non-uniform inspection criteria.

The Beacon Council faces with this issue as it assists local and new-to-market businesses establish or expand in Miami-Dade County. On June 29, 1989 The Beacon Council, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and the commercial building industry associations hosted a permitting workshop. This was the first step in an exchange of information between the builders and the county government permitting authorities. Continued follow-up of this process is recommended to assist aviation businesses with their permitting needs.

Strategy 3. Improve ground transportation for people and cargo into and from Miami International Airport.

Miami-Dade County does not have a dedicated source of funding for its planned transportation system. However, the number of airport passengers and cargo freight continues to grow. Thus, the need to increase transportation access into and from MIA also grows.

A number of transportation improvements have funding and are underway. An aviation committee to update and monitor the progress is recommended.

Strategy 4. Expand and reinforce existing industry associations enabling them to more effectively address impediments to aviation businesses.

A number of aviation business organizations, including the greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Aviation Alliance, the Greater Miami Aviation Association, the Miami Maintenance Management Association and the Greater Miami Aviation Cargo Association, have programs to improve the aviation business climate in Miami-Dade County. Although each of these organizations are undertaking important roles in the aviation industry, the industry recommends that exchanging information and working cooperatively on selected issues should be undertaken.

Issues addressed

- Permitting, construction costs, certificates of occupancy, impact fees.
- Businesses are not treated as valued customers.
- Assure capacity to handle cargo and passengers.
- Lack of communications on pending regulations from MIA.
- Public transportation into and from MIA and other airports.
- Lack of industry-wide approach to issues, problems or priorities.
- Does not have a regional approach.

Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
Objective 2	Enhance the business climate between Miami-Dade County and the related aviation businesses.	
Strategy 1	<p>Appoint a study team, reporting to the highest Miami-Dade county authorities, to assess and recommend policies, which would improve communications and decisions between County officials and aviation businesses.</p> <p>Assemble a small group (3 or 4 people) to prepare and review a work plan for the ad. hoc Aviation Authority Review Committee.</p> <p>Present draft work plan and Aviation Authority Review Committee members to the Miami-Dade County Mayor.</p> <p>Organize the leadership and membership of the Aviation Authority Review Committee. Membership should include, but not be limited to, public sector representatives, major passenger and cargo airlines, express freight carriers, cruise lines, etc.</p>	<p>1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce</p>



Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
Strategy 3.	<p>Create a one-step process for obtaining aircraft permitting.</p> <p>Improve ground transportation for people and cargo into and from Miami International Airport.</p> <p>Establish an aviation industry panel to review the proposed changes to the Airport's Construction Improvement Plan dealing with airport traffic into and from MIA.</p> <p>Continue to monitor the development of the Miami Intermodal Center.</p> <p>Report progress to appropriate aviation organizations.</p> <p>Expand and reinforce existing industry associations enabling them to more effectively address impediments to aviation businesses.</p>	<p>1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2. The Beacon Council</p> <p>1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department 3. Aviation Consulting Firms</p> <p>1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department 1. Miami-Dade Aviation Department.</p>
Strategy 4.		



Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
	<p>Review, using existing information the pros and cons of utilizing an aviation authority in lieu of the existing governance structure.</p> <p>Prepare a report on the findings of the committee and submit the report to appropriate business and government organizations.</p> <p>Streamline the permitting process associated with starting, expanding or relocating aviation businesses and create a one-stop process among the local regulatory agencies.</p> <p>Establish an aviation permitting team to review the current aviation permitting process.</p> <p>Review the results of permitting workshop. Based on these findings, continue to hold similar aviation permitting workshops. The participants should include the appropriate County permitting team.</p>	<p>1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2. The Beacon Council</p>
Strategy 2.		



Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
	<p>Establish a regular channel among aviation business organizations, such as, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Aviation Alliance, the Greater Miami Aviation Association, the Miami Maintenance Management Council, the Greater Miami Cargo Association.</p> <p>Develop a method to announce the dates and major agencies of the aviation association events.</p> <p>Host annual or semi-annual meeting among the aviation associations.</p>	<p>1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2. Greater Miami Aviation Association 3. Miami Maintenance Management Council 4. Miami Cargo Association</p> <p>1. Aviation Associations</p> <p>1. Aviation Associations</p>



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Objective 3. Provide a qualified workforce for Miami-Dade County's aviation businesses.

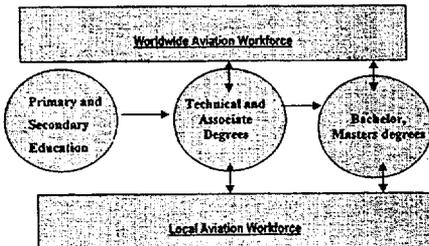
Strategy 1. Using a model, such as, the Southeast Florida Aviation Consortium, develop a network of aviation educators/trainers and prepare a plan to coordinate and facilitate aviation education and training among providers and users.

The demand for trained and educated aviation workers far exceeds the local or US supply. To meet today's aviation workforce skill requirements, this area must train and educate the existing labor force. Fortunately, South Florida has a large number of education and training institutions. Unfortunately, no coordinated effort between the education facilities and the aviation industry employers exist.

A fundamental requirement to increase the supply of trained and educated workers is the establishment of this coordinated effort. Currently, a loose network of education and training institutions, The Southeast Florida Aviation Consortium, is organized and could serve as the organizational structure for this task.

Strategy 2. Create an aviation education and training center concept.

The model below depicts the concept of the Southeast Florida Aviation Education and Training Center.



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This concept would not require a set of facilities at one location, but would involve all the public and private education and training facilities in Southeast Florida. The center would educate and train the local workforce (existing and potential), as well as, the national and international workforce.

Strategy 3. Develop an aggressive program to encourage primary and secondary students to investigate the exciting and rewarding career opportunities in the aviation industry. The long-term supply of aviation workers depends on the number of young people who choose aviation as their career. Miami-Dade County has a rich heritage of aviation accomplishments and many existing programs promoting these aviation heroes and events.

The recommendation is to encourage and increase the number of opportunities Miami-Dade County school children have to learn more about aviation as a vocation.

Strategy 4. Develop, offer and encourage industry based training programs to upgrade skills of the existing workforce.

To increase the current supply of educated and trained aviation workers requires the recruitment of new employees into Miami-Dade County or upgrading the existing skills of the available workforce.

With the national aviation workers in short supply, upgrading local skills offers an excellent alternative.

Issues Addressed

- Inadequate supply of skilled aviation workers.
- Difficulty of attracting aviation professionals and skilled workers.
- Ineffective communications between industry, regional education institutions and government.
- Limited coordination or cooperation among aviation businesses regarding workforce development.
- The need for more A&P mechanics, certified mechanics and other skilled metal workers.

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Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
Objective 3	Provide a qualified workforce for Miami-Dade County's aviation businesses.	1. Area colleges, universities and K-12 public schools. 2. Private for profit aviation training businesses.
Strategy 1.	Using a model, such as, the Southeast Florida Aviation Consortium (SEFAC), develop a network of aviation educators/trainers and prepare a plan to coordinate and facilitate aviation education and training among providers and users.	1. Southeast Florida Aviation Consortium
	Identify and prepare a brief (less than one page) description of existing aviation education and training programs in Southeast Florida. The list should include public schools, community colleges, colleges and universities (public and private), plus the private for profit aviation training businesses.	1. Southeast Florida Aviation Consortium.
	Under the leadership of the Southeast Florida Aviation Consortium, host an aviation education/training capabilities workshop.	1. Area colleges, universities, Miami-Dade County Public Schools 2. Military Organizations 3. The Beacon Council
	Establish the Southeast Florida Aviation Education/Training Consortium, including necessary funding.	

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Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
	Authorize the Southeast Florida Aviation Education/Training Consortium as the entity to coordinate and facilitate aviation education/training among Consortium providers and aviation users.	1. Area colleges, universities and Miami-Dade Public Schools
Strategy 2	Create an aviation education and training center concept.	1. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University 2. Airbus
	Review aviation training models, particularly the FAA, JAA and UPS model. Contact Wichita State University regarding their program.	1. Area colleges, universities, Miami-Dade Public Schools 2. Southeast Florida Aviation Consortium.
	Develop a two track education/training center concept which will permit people, both those within the aviation industry and those who are considering aviation as a career, to prepare for a technical career (mechanics, avionics, etc.) or a professional career (college degrees).	1. The Beacon Council 2. Virtual Languages ; 3. Aviation Associates
	Identify the training needs of the aviation industry.	1. Southeast Florida Aviation Consortium. 2. Area colleges, universities Miami-Dade County Public Schools
	Match the training needs with current training capabilities. If certain training needs are not available, then establish needed training programs.	

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Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
	Market the training programs to the local workforce. Encourage aviation businesses to provide training incentives.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 3. Area colleges and universities 1. The Beacon Council
Strategy 3	As Southeast Florida's aviation education and training center develops, market the capabilities to US and Latin American markets. Develop an aggressive program to encourage primary and secondary students to investigate the exciting and rewarding career opportunities in the aviation industry. Based on the international studies model, introduce aviation into grades 3-12 at Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Contact airport and aviation industry field trips. Get kids in planes. Hold aviation career fairs. Host airport open houses. Develop aviation internships or co-op work experience	1. Miami-Dade County Public Schools 1. Miami-Dade County Public Schools 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department 3. Miami-Dade Aviation Businesses 4. Aviation Associations 1. Miami-Dade County Public Schools 2. Aviation Businesses

**Objective 4. Identify and present Miami-Dade County as a world-class aviation center and expand its markets.**

**Strategy 1. Conduct a worldwide marketing campaign emphasizing the aviation industry and quality of life.**

Miami International Airport ranks as one of the top 10 busiest airports in the world. Further, the airport and the related aviation industries are experiencing rapid growth. This growth represents aviation business opportunities for local, as well as, national and international businesses.

A coordinated marketing campaign to deliver the Miami aviation message and describe some of these opportunities is needed.

**Strategy 2. Prepare action plans for regional and statewide aviation related issues.**

The State of Florida recently eliminated the Florida sales tax on spare parts. This removed a major obstacle to establishing Florida as an aircraft maintenance center. Other legislative issues exist and need to be reviewed.

**Strategy 3. Establish the aviation industry as one of One Community One Goal's targeted industries.**

Miami-Dade County, business organizations and public officials have identified and reached agreement on seven major industries that provide the best opportunity for employment growth in the future. Two of these industries, the visitor industry and merchandise trade, directly relate to the growth in air passenger and air cargo service. However, these two industries are more focus on the flow of passengers and cargo and not on aviation facilities, aviation business recruitment, expansion and retention, education/training or aircraft maintenance, overhaul and manufacturing.

The establishment of the aviation industry as the eighth industry will focus economic development efforts towards this industry and increase its visibility.

Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
Strategy 4.	Develop, offer and encourage industry based training programs to upgrade skills of the existing workforce. Market the Airport Resource Center to attract local workers to the aviation industry. Through the aviation education/training center network, inform potential workers of the available training. Encourage and possibly provide financial incentives to the local workforce to upgrade their skill level through the Aviation Training Center Network. Identify and obtain dollars to provide aviation position training for non-traditional workers. Welfare to Work (WAGES), economically disadvantaged (Jobs and Education Partnership) and others.	1. Work and Gain Self-Sufficiency Coalition (W.A.G.E.S.) 2. Employment Zone Trust Southeast Florida Aviation Consortium 1. Aviation Businesses 2. Aviation Associations 1. Aviation Businesses 2. WAGES 3. Jobs and Education Partnership 4. Employment Zone Trust

**Strategy 4. Conduct and market an aviation economic impact study.**

The economic value of the Miami-Dade County Airports and its related aviation industries is unknown. The value will be used to inform and educate our local citizens of the importance of aviation on our local economy.

The marketing campaign will use the results of the economic impact study to emphasize the size and importance to this dynamic industry.

**Issues Addressed**

- Local community does not understand the economic impact of the aviation industry.
- Local government does not understand and thus cannot effectively support the aviation industry. This is particularly true for small businesses and aircraft maintenance.
- Miami has a poor image, businesses move into telephone area codes (954) and (561) for better image.
- Bad publicity from FAA video and media.
- Miami does not match other cities incentives.
- Become the "Gateway to Africa".
- Does not have a regional approach to issues, problems or promotions.
- Public safety, housing, public schools, public transportation and general image an obstacle to recruitment and growth.

Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
Strategy	Establish the aviation industry as one of One Community One Goal's targeted industries.	
	Complete the Miami-Dade Aviation Taskforce Report.	1. The Beacon Council
	Present the Aviation Taskforce's objectives, strategies, action steps and organizations who have agreed to provide leadership to resolve aviation industry issues to the co-chair of One Community One Goal.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
	Present the Aviation Taskforce report to the One Community One Goal Oversight Committee for their review and approval.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
	Recommend a person to represent the Aviation Industry on the Oversight Committee.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
Strategy 4.	Conduct and market an aviation economic impact study.	

Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
Objective 4.	Identify and present Miami-Dade County as a world-class aviation center and expand its markets.	
Strategy 1	Conduct a worldwide marketing campaign emphasizing the aviation industry and quality of life.	
	Determine what aviation marketing efforts are currently being conducted. Review the programs of the Miami-Dade County's Aviation Department Marketing and Public Relation offices.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
	Identify the key target audiences, i.e., Miami-Dade County residents, existing aviation businesses, visitor industry targets, executive recruits, airline facility planners/business development managers, Worldwide Aviation Directory, McGraw-Hill, Southern Command and all passengers and cargo airlines. Also, select local, national and worldwide geographic targets.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Greater Miami Aviation Association 3. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
	Review and select the best marketing mix. The review would include: personal visits, collateral, public relations, promotion video (may co-op support with other organizations), print advertising, broadcast campaign, worldwide web, trade media/trade event and promotional events.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Greater Miami Aviation Association 3. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
	Secure funding for the marketing campaign. Possible sources: a co-op with The Beacon Council, Miami-Dade Aviation Department and Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department

Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
	Review the latest aviation economic impact study conducted for the Miami-Dade Aviation department to determine 1) when it was conducted, 2) what components of the aviation industry were included and 3) how much it cost.	1. The Beacon Council
	If the latest aviation economic impact study did not include all sectors and if it is more than three years old, then recommend a new study be undertaken during 2000.	1. The Beacon Council
	Identifying funding for an economic impact study.	1. Miami-Dade Aviation Department 2. Aviation businesses 3. The Beacon Council
	From aviation association members, Miami-Dade Aviation Department and major airline employers obtain economic information and conduct an economic impact study.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Aviation related consultant 3. Aviation businesses
	Present findings to the appropriate aviation entities and the general public.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
	Use the results in the aviation marketing campaign.	1. The Beacon Council

Action Plans

Objective/Strategy	Action	Responsibility*
	Initiate and implement the aviation marketing campaign.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
	Host a major South Florida aviation conference in 2001.	1. The Beacon Council 2. Aviation Associations
Strategy 2	Prepare action plans for regional and statewide aviation related issues.	
	Identify through personal knowledge, industry survey or reviewing what other aviation organizations have determined as the critical state and regional issues. Some issues might included: a) state taxes, b) state incentives, c) regional marketing, d) research, e) statewide aviation workforce development or f) statewide imbalance of federal FAA monies.	1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2. Aviation Associations 3. The Beacon Council
	Clarify the issues and garner aviation business support.	1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
	Promote the issues to appropriate legislative or education organizations.	1. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2. Aviation Associations

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RESOLUTION NO. 2000-9

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE AS THE HOMESTEAD REGIONAL AIRPORT.

WHEREAS, in August 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated the southern portion of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the destruction, Homestead Air Force Base, a major economic and employment center, was destroyed; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Homestead Air Force Base was closed and later redefined as a significantly reduced air reserve operation; and

WHEREAS, a proposed regional, commercial airport in Homestead will generate thousands of new jobs and facilitate the development of airport-related commercial and industrial businesses; and

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a regional, commercial airport will promote and expand economic recovery for southern Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, aviation services provided by Homestead Regional Airport would greatly benefit Miami International Airport by serving as a reliever airport for air traffic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1: The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah, Florida hereby support the redevelopment of the Homestead Air Force Base as the Homestead

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-9  
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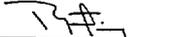
Regional Airport for commercial air traffic and related services.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2000.

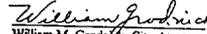
  
Alex Morales  
Council President

Attest:  
  
Daniel F. DeLoach, City Clerk

Approved on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2000.

  
Mayor Raul L. Martinez

Approved as to legal sufficiency and as to form:  
City of Hialeah Resolution 2000-9 Homestead Air Force Base

  
William M. Grodnick, City Attorney

RESOLUTION was adopted by unanimous vote with Councilmembers Bovo, Garcia, Gonzalez, Morales, Ponce, Robaina, and Yedra voting "Yes".

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**PUBLIC HEARING ON  
HAFB**

**PERSONAL TESTIMONY  
BY  
ROY G. PHILLIPS, Ph.D.  
PRIVATE CITIZEN/ENTREPRENEUR**

Tuesday, February 1, 2000  
5:30 p.m.

South Dade Senior High School  
Auditorium

Good afternoon, my name is Roy G. Phillips. I live at 12725 SW 218 Street, Goulds, Florida 33170.

I am appearing before you this evening as a private citizen/entrepreneur to speak in support of the proposed action for the development of a commercial airport on surplus property at the Homestead Airport in accordance with the Homestead Air Force Base Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

My remarks are based upon a review of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement - "Disposal of Portions of the Former Homestead Air Force Base, Florida." prepared by the U.S. Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration and cooperating agencies including: National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as well as my own participation on two county-wide Aviation Advisory Committees.

I would like to confine my remarks to the following areas: Economic Need; Continuing Delays by more and more studies and threats of lawsuits to stop airport development; the impact upon the environment.

**ECONOMIC NEED**

The devastation wrought by Hurricane Andrew in 1992, created a massive population out migration of many small and medium sized businesses and middle income residents,

# COMMENTS

leaving behind many unemployed and low income residents.

In April 1999, Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Andrew Cuomo noted that the Homestead area is one of the few remaining areas of poverty nation wide. More than 37% of Florida City and 30% of the people in Homestead are below the poverty level.

- The study projects 38,000 air-related jobs that are estimated to generate \$800 million in earnings by 2015 and to increase to more than \$1 billion in earnings by full build-out.
- Non-Airport Proposals do not provide comparable jobs. The Collier proposal, for example, "is estimated to be the least job intensive alternative": 1,900 by 2005 and only 6,800 at full build-out on site. In total, the Collier proposal is estimated to produce no more than 14,000 jobs and \$350 million in earnings by full build-out.
- These alternative proposals would transfer extremely valuable assets to wealthy developers.
- All of the data that I have reviewed show a need in South Florida for a Reliever Airport to relieve congestion at Miami International Airport. So far, Homestead provides the best site for a "Reliever Airport" the SEIS Confirms that there is no feasible site for a new airport and Opa-Locka cannot satisfy the forecast needs.

## CONSTANT DELAYS

- Environmentalists supported Airport development at Homestead in previous years. Many of the environmentalists opposed various Miami-Dade County sites for Commercial Airport development including, for example, the Jet Port Site. At that time they agreed that Airport development should occur in Homestead.
- Only after the Air Force approved Commercial Airport development in 1994, did environmentalists actively oppose the airport. They demanded and got from the Clinton Administration an agreement that the environmental impact study earlier performed by the Air Force should be done over. The six year delay has prevented any economic development and job creation for the area. Even now there are threats to delay the process even further through litigations. The future of South Dade's economic development has been held hostage by such tactics.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The final environmental study commissioned by the Air Force in 1994 supported the development of Homestead Airport and concluded that the airport would be environmentally compatible. The current SEIS reconfirms this conclusion.

- **AIR QUALITY IS PROTECTED** - The SEIS concludes that increase in air pollution emissions is not expected to exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards and that increases in nitrogen oxides would be less than 1% of county wide emission standards.

- **WATER RESOURCES ARE PROTECTED** - The proposed action includes a comprehensive surface water management Master Plan for managing on-site storm water runoff. This plan will comply with permit provisions pending before the South Florida Water Management District. Because of the concerns expressed about preserving Biscayne Bay's water quality, extra care was taken to design a plan to preserve water quality. The Preservation Plan includes a network of French drains and other features designed to retain as much of the storm water runoff as possible on the airport property.

- **NOISE IMPACT PROTECTION** - The County's leading independent experts concluded that a commercial airport at Homestead will have environmentally compatible noise impacts. Furthermore, it is important to note that the expected impacts in the environmental study do not even include the implementation of a noise management and implementation plan which is required by the State of Florida for use of the base as a commercial airport.

- **AIRPORT SAFETY** - The SEIS report concluded that the risk of serious accidents involving commercial aircraft was negligible.

- **PROTECTION OF WETLANDS** - The development effects on wetlands are minor and these resources will be protected under Federal and state regulations.

- **PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE AND HABITAT** - The biological resource experts who

prepared the study found little impact on noise sensitive wading birds, on Cape Sable seaside sparrows, and minimal losses of remnant pine Rockland which could be reduced further under mitigation plans.

- **PROTECTION OF MANATEES AND CROCODILES IN BISCAYNE BAY PARK** - Manatees will be little affected by the projected noise level and in any case can habituate themselves to noise. Crocodile life would not be sufficiently affected to stop their northward migration.

- **TURKEY POINT SAFETY** - While studies are not complete in this area, those that are underway do not expect real safety hazards. Sixty-three percent of the residents in the South Dade area support a commercial airport at the former HAFB site.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

H:\wpdata\hafb testimony 2.1.2000

MAYOR GEORGE GEISLER  
VICE MAYOR KYN M. COLLETS  
COUNCILMAN JAMES MOONEY



COUNCILMAN FRANK R. KULISKY  
COUNCILMAN RON LEVY

000071

February 2, 2000

U.S. Air Force  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Enclosed you will find a resolution opposing the placement of a commercial airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base. This resolution was passed unanimously by the Islamorada, Village of Islands Village Council on January 27, 2000.

We believe that the development of this airport would cause irreparable damage to the adjacent parks and sanctuaries. It will also impact evacuation of the Keys in the event of a hurricane threat to South Florida.

Please consider the Florida Keys and the effects the airport will have when you make your final decision.

Sincerely,

George Geisler  
Mayor, Islamorada, Village of Islands

Encl.

8011 Overseas Highway • P.O. Box 968 • Islamorada, Florida 33056  
305.664.2155 fax 305.664.2399 www.islamorada.fl.us

CERTIFIED COPY OF ORIGINAL  
*Carol Simpkins*  
CAROL SIMPKINS, Village Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 00-01-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA; OPPOSING THE PLACEMENT OF A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT AT THE FORMER HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense and Miami-Dade County presently are investigating options for redevelopment for the former Homestead Air Force Base (the "Homestead AFB"); and

WHEREAS, Islamorada, Village of Islands, Florida (the "Village"), is a neighboring community which lies approximately only 50 miles south of Homestead in the Keys; and

WHEREAS, the Village, endowed with an unparalleled natural environment highlighted by the only living coral reef in the continental United States and over 100 species of plants and animals listed or considered for listing in a protected category by the state or federal government, depends upon the health of the surrounding waters to entice tourists interested in world-class fishing, diving, and a tropical atmosphere and to provide bountiful harvests of fish, lobster, and shrimp; and

WHEREAS, the Homestead AFB lies ten miles east of Everglades National Park and adjacent to Biscayne National Park (sometimes referred to collectively as the "National Parks"); and

WHEREAS, Everglades National Park, as the largest remaining sub-tropical wilderness in the continental United States and with its extensive fresh and saltwater areas, open Everglades prairies, mangrove forests, and abundant wildlife including rare and colorful birds, alligators, and crocodiles, is a precious national resource in need of protection; and

WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park, which is 28 miles long and 14 miles wide, is the last remaining stretch of natural coastline between the developed portion of eastern Miami-Dade County and the Keys and features fragile coral reefs, mangroves, and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the Village and the National Parks contain fragile natural resources unlike any found anywhere else in the continental United States that are in need of preservation and protection; and

WHEREAS, one of the proposed options for redevelopment includes creation of a commercial airport, with cargo shipments and commuter airline flights resulting in between 600-700 landings and takeoffs per day; and

WHEREAS, the noise and water pollution generated by a commercial airport at the Homestead AFB would endanger existing wildlife and violate the fundamental purpose of the National Parks, as well as adversely affect the natural beauty and pristine nature of the neighboring areas; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council believes that placement of a commercial airport at the Homestead AFB would result in irreparable damage to the Village and the National Parks, and would adversely impact the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the Keys, already designated by the Florida Legislature as an area of critical state concern; and

WHEREAS, the only entrance to the Keys and to the Village is via U.S. Highway 1, which runs through Homestead and already has placed on it major traffic demands, and placement of a commercial airport at the Homestead AFB would only exacerbate these problems; and

WHEREAS, other, less-intense proposals for redevelopment have been submitted.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The Village Council opposes the placement of a commercial airport at the Homestead AFB.

**Section 2.** The Village Council petitions the County, the United States Department of Defense, and the United States Department of the Interior to explore less-intense use options for the Homestead AFB which would preserve the pristine nature and protect the precious natural resources of the property and surrounding areas.

**Section 3.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2000.

  
GEORGE GEISLER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
Carol Simpkins, Village Clerk

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

  
VILLAGE ATTORNEY

Motion to adopt by Vice-Mayor Collins seconded by Councilman Kulisky

COMMENTS

000073

February 1, 2000

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

Mayor George Geisler YES  
 Vice Mayor Kym M. Collins YES  
 Councilman Frank R. Kulisky YES  
 Councilman Ron Levy YES  
 Councilman James V. Mooney YES

436001/Resolution/Homestead Air Force Base

4

Back in the '50's I lived and went to school in Hialeah. During that time I mowed the lawns of residents in Miami Springs. One nice lady's yard I mowed lived on Minola Drive, just one mile north of Miami International Airport. I remember her having one of those hand pitcher pumps in her back yard, and in pumping out water—the ugly black oily look it had I couldn't believe my eyes...She told me that was ground water run-off from the airport into the water table. That was the '50's..... Today, can you imagine how polluted and contaminated the water is????

A commercial airport at H.A.R.B., would be devastation to the water supply to the residents, farming operations, and national parks near by... WE CANT LET THAT HAPPEN!!!!

For the past eight years we have heard the politicians and promoters yelling, JOBS, JOBS, JOBS... We need jobs for the people!! Well, they're there. I always thought that if anyone really and truly wants to work, he'll find a job. We have buses and bike-ways on the busway to take any body who wants to work to their job.... According to figures released by the FLA DEPT OF LABOR, and EMPLOYMENT SECURITIES, unemployment in Miami-Dade County fell to 5% in December, the lowest unemployment rate in more than ten years... That says something... Have you looked lately, in the South Dade News Leader paper???? -- why,— the jobs are plentiful — 8 columns of help wanted, good paying, way above minimum wage being offered. If people want to work, the jobs are here in South Dade, now....

The proposed commercial airport would benefit the greedy, self-interests, real-estate speculators, bankers, lawyers, lobbyists, land baron farmers, Homestead and county politicians. It certainly wouldn't benefit WE THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN SOUTH-DADE COUNTY.....Shouldn't we all be good stewards of the land????

Sidney Robinson - 23515 S.W. 162 Ave., Homestead (Redland), Florida 33021-1307  
 305-247-5511

*Sidney Robinson*



000074

Office of the Mayor

February 1, 2000

Homestead Draft  
 SEIS  
 AFBCA/PA  
 1700 N. Moore Street  
 Suite Z300  
 Arlington, VA 22209

RE: Redevelopment of Homestead Air Force Base

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find a copy of a Resolution supporting the redevelopment of the Homestead Air Force Base. I urge you to seriously consider the economic impact the redevelopment of this project would have on the communities of Florida City/Homestead and the South Dade area. There is also a great need to provide jobs to the citizens of these communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*O. T. Wallace*  
 Otis T. Wallace  
 Mayor

OTW:rs

Post Office Box 343570 • 404 West Palm Drive • Florida City, Florida 33034-0570 • Telephone (305) 247-8221 • Fax (305) 242-8133

RESOLUTION NO. 00-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FLORIDA CITY, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE AS HOMESTEAD REGIONAL AIRPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR DISPOSAL OF PORTIONS OF THE FORMER HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, AS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE IN DECEMBER, 1999; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in August of 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated the southern portion of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary economic and employment centers destroyed by Hurricane Andrew was the Homestead Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration (the "FAA") have recently completed the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (the "SEIS") concerning disposal of portions of the former Homestead Air Force Base (the "AFB"), dated December, 1999; and

WHEREAS, at the insistence of the Federal Government and various environmental organizations, the people of Homestead and South Miami-Dade County had been forced for several years to set aside all expectations of new jobs and economic recovery while both a Sensitivity Analysis (whose conclusions were the same as the 1994 Final Environmental Impact Statement) and the SEIS were completed; and

WHEREAS, the Community was extremely surprised and disappointed to hear the

1

2000

02/01/00 10:00 FAX 705 247 8221 TEL 305 247 8221

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02/01/00 10:00 FAX 705 247 8221 TEL 305 247 8221

recent negative comments of Secretary Babbit and Administrator Browner regarding the recently completed draft of the SEIS concerning the development of an airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, since the public comment period on the SEIS had not concluded, the comments of Secretary Babbit and Administrator Browner were ill-timed, ill-informed, in sharp conflict with the findings of the SEIS, and bring into question the integrity of the entire federal process; and

WHEREAS, a unique opportunity presently exists to promote the economic recovery of southern Miami-Dade County by providing for the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, this opportunity must be pursued without further delay; and

WHEREAS, the SEIS indicates that the use of surplus lands of the AFB for the development of a commercial airport, to be designated as Homestead Regional Airport, as proposed by Miami-Dade County, can be accomplished in a manner which is compatible with the environment; and

WHEREAS, it is also clear, as the SEIS indicates, that commercial air activity at the Homestead facility will not have "any significant impact on our national parks and/or their surroundings"; and

WHEREAS, the Homestead Regional Airport will generate thousands of new jobs and will facilitate the development of airport related facilities and commercial and industrial enterprises; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Homestead Regional Airport will generate thousands of new jobs and will facilitate the development of airport related facilities and commercial and industrial enterprises; and

2

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WHEREAS, the development of the Homestead Regional Airport will enable the southern Miami-Dade County community to make substantial progress in recovering from the devastating impact of Hurricane Andrew; and

WHEREAS, the Homestead Regional Airport would provide scheduled air passenger services, as well as air freight, air cargo, and general aviation operations; and

WHEREAS, aviation services provided by Homestead Regional Airport would serve to provide much needed relief to Miami International Airport ("MIA") by serving as a reliever airport;

WHEREAS, MIA would greatly benefit from a reliever airport to mitigate the heavy demand created by the growing quantity of international traffic; and

WHEREAS, the runway at Homestead Regional Airport can readily accommodate all types of aircraft in the civil fleet, and must, in any event, remain active in the future to meet U.S. Military and U.S. Customs needs; and

WHEREAS, the SEIS indicates that a commercial airport facility can coexist in our environment, while alleviating the long term planning problems of air capacity for Miami-Dade County; but more importantly, fulfilling the federal government's commitment made many years ago, to help revitalize our economy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FLORIDA :

Section 1. Recitals adopted. That each of the above stated recitals are hereby confirmed and adopted.

Section 2. Statement of Support. That the City Commission hereby expresses its strong support for the development of Homestead Regional Airport, in accordance with the proposal of

3

5000 AIG ANO JVSU 9289 889 703 FAX 703 898 8828 00/00/00 10E 10:01 20E 00/00/20

Miami-Dade County, Florida, as evaluated in the SEIS of December, 1999.

Section 3. Request for Action. That the City Commission call upon all interested parties to move forward with this essential project.

Section 4. Distribution of Resolution. That a copy of this resolution shall be distributed to the Honorable Albert Gore, Jr., the South Florida Congressional Delegation, the United States Air Force, the FAA, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Mayor Alex Penelas of Miami-Dade County, Mayor Steve Shiver of the City of Homestead, the County Manager of Miami-Dade County, the Director of MIA, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, and to other interested parties as designated by the City Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2000.

*Otis T. Wallace*  
Otis T. Wallace  
Mayor

ATTEST:  
*Elizabeth A. Sewell*  
Elizabeth A. Sewell, CMG  
City Clerk

0000 AIG ANO JVSU 9289 889 703 FAX 703 898 8828 00/00/00 10E 10:01 20E 00/00/20

Good Evening February 1, 2000 000075

My name is Brian Etting ~~Private Citizen~~

~~I live and work inside Everglades National Park~~

~~I love the Everglades. I am here tonight as a private citizen to fight to protect the Everglades.~~

Right now I have ~~these words~~ <sup>written for</sup> the political leadership of Homestead and Miami-Dade County and the supporters of the commercial airport plan <sup>to</sup> ~~in South Florida. The ecology is the economy.~~

The Everglades is the ~~main~~ <sup>main</sup> reason for Miami-Dade County's \$10 Billion tourism industry.

More than 365,000 Florida jobs depend on the regional tourism-based economy supported by a healthy Everglades.

According to the Army Corps of Engineers in their Comprehensive Everglades Restoration/Restudy brochure:  
"Everglades Nat. Park is one of the top 5 tourist destinations in nation."

About 1/3 of the visitors to the Everglades are international visitors from outside the United States.

It's time to remind the political leadership of Homestead and Miami-Dade County YOU HAVE A WORLD CLASS TOURIST DESTINATION IN YOUR BACKYARD

You should be proud to have the Everglades next to your community

Your top priority should be to promote, protect, and save the threatened Everglades ~~ecosystem~~ <sup>ecosystem</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> most threatened National park in the United States

(Private Citizen)

Brian Etting  
#1 Flamingo Lodge Hwy  
Flamingo, FL - 33034-6798

COMMENTS

000076

It is time to stop the commercial airport development of the former Homestead Air Force Base.

The proposed 234,000 flights per year would be disruptive to the wildlife and visitors of Everglades National Park.

Also the build up of industrial wastes from a major commercial airport will jeopardize marine life and our drinking water supply.

It should be unthinkable to place a major commercial airport next to two national parks, Biscayne and Everglades National Park.

\*Can you imagine how outraged we would be if a major commercial airport was proposed 8 miles from Yosemite Nat. Park or 2 miles from Yellowstone Nat. Park?

As taxpayers and voting citizens, we must ensure that our national parks, locally and nationwide, are protected from internal and external environmental threats.

The most crucial question we must ask ourselves tonight:  
WHAT WOULD MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WANT US TO DO?

Over 30 years ago, a major jetport (commercial airport) was proposed where Big Cypress Nat. Preserve is located today. One of the respected residents of South Florida Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the mother of Everglades National Park and the author of the landmark book on the Everglades, River of Grass, successfully lead the movement to defeat that crazy jetport scheme.

Marjory is no longer alive to guide us through the complex issues of the Everglades and South Florida's environment. However, her words and wisdom will forever be with us.

Make no doubts about it, though Marjory would want this crazy airport scheme stopped also.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight.  
Air Force

NO AIRPORT  
SAVE OUR GREATEST  
ASSESS 2 NATIONAL  
PARK.  
NO Damage to our  
Ecological Life!

000077

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/2/2005

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

For just in case of the change of  
Realignment to commercial air line usage -  
Because of the world situation we need the  
Air Base back in it original use, because of  
being a veteran of the US Army and a  
disabled veteran living in Dade County all of  
my life, I have notice that Homestead is  
a strategic area for the United to protect  
the country.

As you know Homestead Air Base was  
Destroyed by nature however andrew got the  
Base still existed as a staging area for  
The European countries such as Russia,  
Korea and recently the Desert storm  
operation for Defense, Pipit Airways and  
Humanitary feeding services. The United States  
is still close to Cuba and traps could  
change rapidly in a defense 90 miles away  
(over)

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUÉ AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: James L. Mansler

ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 1300 Homestead St

CITY/CUADRA: Miami, Florida 33176

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 305-233-2468

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicarán sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que este aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2005 to:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2005 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

I'm fighting in Korea as a young  
soldier. We had to immediately regroup  
to defeat the north tower and the  
Chinese, we did this with no status  
area in Korea and sold down  
equipment with no air fields in  
Korea in 1950.

We now have Homestead Air  
Base with all the structures  
in place to make Homestead Air  
Base viable for

- ① Feeding European countries
- ② Fighting away in possible
- ③ Defending the United States  
from aggression

The Realignment should be  
Back what it was.  
The re-alignment committee  
should replace Homestead Air Base  
Back like it was.  
Richard Wis. Ann. 4

000078

000079

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2/2/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Runway 9 left at OpaLocka is 8000 Ft  
with room for expansion, and not a 30  
mile drive to the middle of nowhere

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINIR AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Robert Cooper Welsh Jr  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 7375 W 24th Ct  
CITY/CIUDAD: South Miami FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33143

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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

COMMENTS ON HOMESTEAD SEIS

Who decided there is a "recognized civil aviation need in south Florida for additional commercial service activity"?

Miami International is expanding its capacity and is getting a new runway. Opa Locks airport is available and is situated between Broward and central Dade. Homestead is 20 miles from Dade center and 50 miles from Broward center. The FAA itself recognized that the Homestead airport would not serve Broward residents. The report that made that statement disappeared shortly after it was made public. Why?

The number of jobs projected is ludicrous.

A single runway maximum use is projected at 231,000 operations yearly. 904 or 208,000 yearly - 570 per day between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. - 44 per hour - more than one flight every minute and a half. Yet according to the authors of this tripe, that really isn't very annoying. Even two runways full of airplanes doesn't seem very harmful to them.

How ridiculous can these people get? One runway alone will provide a constant annoying roar over the Biscayne National Park during all the hours people are using that fragile treasure. I wonder how the committee members managed to keep their food down while offering these nonsensical estimates of noise levels. The study talks of noise impacts on a few present homes and carefully ignores the impact there will be on the additional homes the study projects.

Then there is the admission that - yes, there will be some fuel fall-out from the aircraft engines, but it really isn't important. Besides, newer jets will have cleaner engines. It is beyond comprehension how this committee could prostitute itself to the extent it has.

Much more than 50% of the commercial jet activity will be by cargo aircraft. OLDER aircraft with dirty emissions. Most of them from Central, South America and the Caribbean. These areas do not have the best aircraft maintenance in the world. Anyone who has lived next to or worked at an airport is painfully aware of the oil film on cars and property. The amount of activity projected to cover fly Biscayne National Park will destroy the vegetation and foul the water. There is a very weak tidal exchange in the lower Bay.

We now have the same number of small businesses and jobs in the greater Homestead area that we had prior to Hurricane Andrew. I'm sure the local mayors and C of C will want to dispute that.

Which air passengers will be told to use Homestead? How will flights be scheduled to make sure that Broward passengers won't need to make the 40-50 mile trip to Homestead?

000080

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2 Feb 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I strongly oppose the development of commercial aviation in Homestead.  
1. Creation of a commercial airport will promote heavy commercial and residential development in exactly the wrong place. Between Florida Bay, the Everglades and the offshore reefs. Adverse effects on water quality would be inevitable if such development occurred.  
2. Jet noise from an airport in Homestead would destroy the esthetic experience of the Everglades and Big Cypress preserves. The necessity of these parks will be destroyed if heavy jets approach and take-off overhead. I live 7 miles from M.I.A.'s Whell jets pass over the home, children are waken, windows rattle, and conversation stops. Noise such as this will destroy the solitude of our parks upon which our tourism depends.  
3. Far superior to an airport would be an alternate plan that minimize noise and adverse affect on water quality of Biscayne and Florida Bays.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINIR AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Philip Stoddard  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 12881 SW 47 St  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33175

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicarán sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

The person in charge at FAA needs to return to private industry, immediately followed by some Air Force people.

I have never seen such an immoral, biased, devious collection of published intellectual horse manure in my almost 80 years. Perhaps I shouldn't be too hard on committee members. There are bound to be some who cringe at the thought they participated in this unbelievable farce.

Hoped-for intelligence should tell everyone who shills for a commercial airport that the mixed use is an alternative that can mature quickly and provide jobs and tax base. Any attempt to construct a commercial airport will be met with litigation on a dozen fronts and will remain bogged in the courts for 10 to 15 years and NO jobs or tax base will be created.

Is that what is wanted for the area?

It will only take one or two poorly maintained cargo jets to crash into the waters of Biscayne National Park to destroy its value. Where is it written that the people of this nation are required to sacrifice one of our most unique National Parks to accommodate a political debt incurred by the present federal administration and some other overly ambitious politicians.

  
Lloyd Miller  
Box 1587  
Homestead, FL 33090

cc: Hon. Al Gore  
Hon. Bob Graham  
Hon. Connie Mack  
Secretary of the Interior Babbitt  
Hon. Jeb Bush

National Organizations:  
Natural Resource Defense Council  
Sierra Club  
Audubon Society  
Isak Walton League  
National Parks and Recreation  
Trust for Public Lands  
Nature Conservancy

000061

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2-2-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

We need to save our birds & preserve the area for future generations. An airport could be need to stop the commercial flight.

NAME/NOMBRE: Amber Goodstein  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 3431 POWERS BLVD  
CITY/CUIDAD: PALM BEACH  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33433

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AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000063

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2/2/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

If concerns me that the noise has just recently been raised when it appears that the decision to build a commercial airport has already been decided. As that the people that would be most adversely impacted (including those who are not really in the area) are of large numbers. There are a lot of people that have been displaced from their homes. The noise level has been too high for many years. The airport is a major problem. I will advocate for the area that is most impacted.

NAME/NOMBRE:  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION:  
CITY/CUIDAD:  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

A commercial airport located between endangered National Parks which is a threat to a myriad of birds & other wildlife. A noisy airport, noisy birds, a danger to both flying birds & planes, increasing the likelihood of a crash. It was only 1 year ago I read in the Herald that it was unnecessary to kill birds because they fall prey to malaria. Malaria was endangering flights. I recommend locating this airport in an open area where there is already development & is clear to commercial. Mixed use option.

NAME/NOMBRE: RALPH NEWMAN  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 7921 SW 180 ST  
CITY/CUIDAD: MIA FL 33150  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2/1/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

AS A RESIDENT OF SO FLORIDA FEEL MORE THAN SO YOU I HAVE HAD THE MISFORTUNE TO WITNESS RAPID DEGRADATION OF AN ONCE PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE UNCONTROLLED URBAN SPREAD THROUGHOUT EVERY LAST PART OF ONE SIXTYSEVEN WOE HAVE LEFT IN SO FLORIDA. EVELYNNE VALIKS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BUT ONCE A PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY, THE ENVIRONMENT GETS WILDERED CONSIDERING OVER HOW AGRICULTURE OF GREEN CORRIERS TO INCREASED GLOBAL WARMING AND IMPACTS. THERE - NEEAWE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. A commercial airport is completely inappropriate for the proposed location - or in SO USE PLANS

NAME/NOMBRE: EVELYNNE VALIKS  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 970 WYCO AVE  
CITY/CUIDAD: CORAL GABLES, FL 33150-6323  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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is proposed by Collier-Hoover is only slightly more attractive.

The web of life in So. Florida has already been disrupted by draining the Everglades. We are already spending billions to ameliorate our water situation - WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF OUR RESOURCES.

We need to be conservative about our future development - in particular on the boundaries of a very delicate + ~~RARE~~ ecosystem.

I am not a radical by any stretch of the imagination, I am one voice who only wishes my co-habitants on this planet will appreciate the necessity of taking good care of this good earth for generations ahead.

*E. Murphy*

000085

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Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participaci3n DATE/FECHA: 2-2-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME TYPE OF BUSINESS AT THE BASE TO BOOST OUR ECONOMY AND PROPERTY VALUES. I LIVE WITHIN 3/10'S OF A MILE OF AAFB.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: M. MISAEIRO  
ADDRESS/DIRECCI3N: 2587 SW 132 CT  
CITY/CUIDAD: NARAYTA  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FLORIDA 33092

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participaci3n DATE/FECHA: Feb. 2, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I urge you to reject the Commercial Airport plan as I do not find compatible with the health and well being of the South Dade Community, or with the South Florida environment, as evidenced by the SEIS projections of a estimated eight-fold increase in hazardous materials stored and used by 2015 on site and offsite 339 TONS per year hazardous waste and increased noise pollution to intolerable levels. Additionally the SEIS tells us airport related traffic and noise to secondary development could affect nearby residential communities. We can't take these risks. Please approve the Collier/Hoover plan which will create a compatible + wonderful opportunity for economic development.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Cindy Lerner  
ADDRESS/DIRECCI3N: 5401 Moss Ranch Road  
CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI, FL 33150  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FLORIDA 33150

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000087

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participaci3n DATE/FECHA: Feb. 2, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I want to share with you an experience I had when I was camping at Fort Jefferson (in the Big Turkey) with the Sierra Club - about 5 years ago. There was an island nearby Fort Jefferson - and it was birds' nesting season. My son's memory is that every time a fighter from the Homestead Air Force Base flew over, 100's of terrified birds flew into the air - in a panic. I believe that, with a large commercial airport, the impact on wildlife would be much worse than it is now.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Clarissa Scott  
ADDRESS/DIRECCI3N: 9102 SW 12 Ave  
CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI, FL 33149  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FLORIDA 33149

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000106

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: Feb. 3, 2002

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am against the proposed Homestead Airport. I don't think that it is conducive to the quality of life in South Florida. In addition to the increased noise it would cause in the flyover areas, there is also a lack of infrastructure in the area to support the expansion. I think the area should be maintained as a traditionally parklike area. A concession to a park like the Separa area. The presence in California would be the most appropriate use of this property.

NAME/NOMBRE: Janice C. Cabell

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 527 NE 57th St

CITY/CUIDAD: Miami

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33137

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

LO SALUDO CON MIS MAS SINCEROS  
REPETIDOS POR FAVOR I BIENJEN  
TAMBIEN EN NUESTROS DIAS HUMANET  
TENGO FAMILIARES BUENO TIENEN  
UNA PAGA MUY BATA. LES AGRADESCO  
DE TODO CORAZON AVE TOMEN UNA  
DECISION JUSTA EN FAVOR DE NUESTROS  
NIÑOS NUESTROS NIÑOS NUESTROS  
UN BUEN FUTURO.

GRACIAS

Rubien

NAME/NOMBRE: RINA TALavera

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 22241 SW 97 Ct

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33190

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

YO SOY RETIRADO Y PERO HE SIENDO  
CON MUCHOS PROBLEMAS POR SEGUIR TRABAJANDO TODA LA VIDA TRABAJANDO AL  
UNIVERO EN HOMESTEAD, HE TRABAJADO  
EN EL CAMPO, HE SIENDO UTIL, QUISIERO  
QUE MI FAMILIA MIS NIETOS CONTIGAN  
HETERES OPORTUNIDADES DEVIDA

GRACIAS  
Felipe Cruz

NAME/NOMBRE: FELIPE CRUZ

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 4111 NE 12 AV

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33030

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000109

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

As a retired owner of a business I am for  
such a case I have other in the class  
occasional value. A commercial airport facility  
business by it is totally inappropriate. The security  
and financial setting for business will be destroyed.  
Distional Airline and commercial airport are  
not compatible. Can you imagine a flying  
the airport airport facility. I am for  
a business that is a P. Unintended!

NAME/NOMBRE: Day Blod

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 3050 Coral Ave

CITY/CUIDAD: Miami, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33133

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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000122

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 3-3-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

On behalf of my children, and my  
children's children, we beg of you to  
keep the peace in the Everglades. One of  
the world's most sacred habitats will fall  
do you really want to go down in  
history as the ones who killed the  
Everglades and the life that lives there??!  
We need to keep some virgin forests  
in the world - with there'll be class to  
none left.  
Respect Life!

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINÚE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS/DIRECCI3N: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/CIUDAD: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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000123

Rosalie E. Leposky  
2311 South Bayshore Drive  
Miami, Florida 33133-4728  
305-285-2200  
releposky@aol.com

February 2, 2000

Mr. John J. Corradetti, Jr.  
Acting Deputy Director  
Department of the Air Force

Dear Sir,

Although I generally consider myself a strong supporter of conservation issues, on the subject of the future of Homestead Airforce Base I support Miami-Dade County's need for an additional commercial airport.

There are far worse locations that could be considered for a commercial airport. If after more than 50 years use as a Air Force Base there have been no major environmental upsets, I suspect with continued careful control, there is no reason the land in question could not continue in use as an airport.

Animals and bird life have long since adjusted to any noise that may come from the airport.

The only possible area of concern to me related to continued aviation use of this space is rising sea levels. A quick glance at the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement does not mention the base's elevation above mean high tide or the condition of the base area's drainage.

Any longterm development of this land needs to consider these factors because of the slow but steadily rising tides, and the need in the near future to keep the Air Force base land drained. Attached is an article I wrote on this subject, "Global Warming Mean Rising Tides for South Florida" in *The WeeklySun* November 27 - December 3, 1998.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Rosalie E. Leposky

Rosalie E. Leposky

000124

23

trends & developments

# Global Warming Means Rising Tides for South Florida



5,000 thousands years ago

**E**arlier this month, delegates from 180 nations met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to debate details of a global-warming treaty sponsored by the United Nations. If global warming is a reality, what will it mean to life in South Florida? Fewer winter cold fronts, perhaps, but first and foremost an increase in sea level as alpine glaciers and Arctic icecaps melt, releasing their stored moisture into the oceans.

**MORE EVIDENCE NEEDED**  
"The evidence that we are entering a stage of global warming is compelling but not conclusive," says oceanographer Dennis A. Mayer, a senior scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Virginia. "Climate as manifested by average air and sea surface temperatures has a very long time scale, with fluctuations from decades to a century or longer. We could be at the rising part of a cycle that could take 50 years to peak. Evidence still is being accumulated."

**SOME EVIDENCE**  
Mean high tides around the southern tip of Florida's coast from Naples to Miami Beach have been rising about a foot every 100 years for the last 5,000 years, but tidal records in Key West show an increase of about a foot in just the last 70 years.

"We have better records for Key West than other South Florida communities. Some of Key West's records date back to the 1800s," says Dr. Harold R. Wanless, chairman of the University of Miami's Department of Geological Sciences.

If this trend continues, higher tides and increased flooding associated with dramatic events such as hurricanes will bring costly environmental and economic changes.

A Category Two hurricane or even a bad storm that pounds a beach area for a day can cause major erosion.

**EROSION AND DRAINAGE STAYS**  
"High storm tides will more easily wash over the lowest areas in the Keys and on barrier islands, and regularly flood low-lying coastal areas. How long can we continue to afford to restore beaches?"

Wanless wonders. "Flood-some maps will have to be revised, and that higher flood risk translates into higher rates for flood insurance," adds Dr. Terry A. Nelson, a NOAA marine geologist and senior research oceanographer.

"The South Florida Water Management District says that an 18-inch rise in sea level will make their whole gravity-based Everglades and coastal drainage system unworkable," notes Wanless.

"Most important, higher regular tides mean more sea-level-water intrusion into the Biscayne and Florida aquifers, the source of South Florida's fresh drinking water."

**NEEDING MAINTENANCE**  
Higher regular tides in the red-mangrove zone are pushing the red mangroves to try to migrate to higher land, but much of that higher land now is flooded by seawater and development.

Wanless notes that only a third of the 80,000 acres of mangrove swamps developed by Hurricane Andrew in 1992 will grow back as mangrove swamps.

The rest are being replaced by ponds and lagoons.

Miami-Dade County residents in Biscayne and Florida Keys are experiencing acres from changes in water quality associated with the increasing depth of the water, which leads to stronger wave agitation and tidal currents that bring higher levels of nutrients and organic materials.

HOMESTEAD AIRFORCE BASE  
PUBLIC HEARING ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT OF REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

February 3, 2000

COMMENTS BY Dwight A Kraai

- IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO DEVELOP THE HOMESTEAD AIR BASE INTO A COMMERCIAL AIRBASE TO SERVE AS A RELIEVER AIRPORT FOR THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.
- IF A RELIEVER AIRPORT IS NEEDED, USE THE FT. LAUDERDALE AIRPORT. IT ALREADY EXISTS. IT ACTUALLY IS AS CLOSE OR CLOSER TO MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THAN THE HOMESTEAD AIRBASE.
- ARE THE MIAMI-DADE POLITICALS SO PAROCHIAL THAT THEY CANNOT WORK WITH FT. LAUDERDALE AIRPORT?
- WORST OF ALL, THE EXISTING MIAMI-DADE MAYOR AND COUNTY COMMISSION CAN NOT EVEN RUN THE EXISTING MIAMI AIRPORT IN AN EFFICIENT AND HONEST MANNER. WHY GIVE THEM MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO MESS THINGS UP.
- I HAVE A BOAT, ENJOY TRIPS INTO Biscayne Bay. IT IS ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL TO BE ABLE TO ANCHOR OFF OF ELLIOTT KEY AND OTHER BAY AREAS TO ENJOY A PEACEFUL, QUIET, MOONLIT SKY. THE NOISE FROM THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF HUNDREDS OF AIRPLANES DAILY IS JUST PLAIN UNACCEPTABLE.
- THE "COLLIER" PLAN MAINTAINS THE EXISTING AIRPORT, PROVIDES AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, YET IS ENVIRONMENTALLY MORE COMPLIANT. THE "COLLIER" PLAN SHOULD BE ACCEPTED.

MVED USE"

DWIGHT A. KRAAI  
1900 SUNSET HARBOUR N., UNIT 1509, MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139-1491

000125

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación  
DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
I AM IN FAVOR OF THE AIRPORT  
PROJECT. IT WILL BRING BUSINESS AND  
IMPROVE THE ECONOMY OF SOUTH HANCOCK AND  
SOUTH BARN IN SPECIFICALLY  
THE ECONOMIC CONCERNS MUST BE  
ADDRESSER AND HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO  
CONSIDERATION BEFORE THE DECISION IS MADE.  
AND THESE CONCERNS WILL BE TAKEN TO BE  
TAKEN IN CONSIDERATION BEFORE FINAL ACTION  
AND BE OPERATING AS USUAL.

IT IS AIRPORT AS ABOVE AND SHOULD  
BE BUILT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY  
PRESENTED AND APPROVED BY THE AIRPORT

NAME/NOMBRE: Louis R. Larose  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 12824 SW 14th TERR  
CITY/CUIDAD: Miami  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33183

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000126

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación  
DATE/FECHA: 2-3-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
I AM IN FAVOR OF THE AIRPORT  
PROJECT. IT WILL BRING BUSINESS AND  
IMPROVE THE ECONOMY OF SOUTH HANCOCK AND  
SOUTH BARN IN SPECIFICALLY  
THE ECONOMIC CONCERNS MUST BE  
ADDRESSER AND HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO  
CONSIDERATION BEFORE THE DECISION IS MADE.  
AND THESE CONCERNS WILL BE TAKEN TO BE  
TAKEN IN CONSIDERATION BEFORE FINAL ACTION  
AND BE OPERATING AS USUAL.

IT IS AIRPORT AS ABOVE AND SHOULD  
BE BUILT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY  
PRESENTED AND APPROVED BY THE AIRPORT

NAME/NOMBRE: Abselvid Aquilart  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 7479 W 30 LO  
CITY/CUIDAD: Hialeah  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33118

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AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000127

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación  
DATE/FECHA: 2/3/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
I AM IN FAVOR OF THE AIRPORT  
PROJECT. IT WILL BRING BUSINESS AND  
IMPROVE THE ECONOMY OF SOUTH HANCOCK AND  
SOUTH BARN IN SPECIFICALLY  
THE ECONOMIC CONCERNS MUST BE  
ADDRESSER AND HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO  
CONSIDERATION BEFORE THE DECISION IS MADE.  
AND THESE CONCERNS WILL BE TAKEN TO BE  
TAKEN IN CONSIDERATION BEFORE FINAL ACTION  
AND BE OPERATING AS USUAL.

IT IS AIRPORT AS ABOVE AND SHOULD  
BE BUILT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY  
PRESENTED AND APPROVED BY THE AIRPORT

NAME/NOMBRE: Louis R. Larose  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 12824 SW 14th TERR  
CITY/CUIDAD: Miami  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33183

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000129

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación  
DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

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PROJECT. IT WILL BRING BUSINESS AND  
IMPROVE THE ECONOMY OF SOUTH HANCOCK AND  
SOUTH BARN IN SPECIFICALLY  
THE ECONOMIC CONCERNS MUST BE  
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CONSIDERATION BEFORE THE DECISION IS MADE.  
AND THESE CONCERNS WILL BE TAKEN TO BE  
TAKEN IN CONSIDERATION BEFORE FINAL ACTION  
AND BE OPERATING AS USUAL.

NAME/NOMBRE: Bess Lawrence  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 915 NW 14 Ave Suite 3510  
CITY/CUIDAD: Miami  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33136

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

To destroy the natural integrity of Southern Miami-Dade County in pursuit of the dollar, with a ready and waiting airport already in existence is an absolute moral disgrace. The region of land around Homestead is already either rural or close to it. A conversion back to its natural state would be easier if Homestead is replaced and mixed use mixed, the will of the people needed. If the people of Homestead are in such dire straits, let them relocate into central and northern Miami Dade where they could assist in Opa-Locka's redevelopment. I hope the decisions made are also influenced free from the ethnic make-up of the community surrounding Opa-Locka, or, from what I believe, because of Mr. Robinson (an African-American) who has a partnership of some sort with the operations of Opa-Locka Airport. Are they being frozen out?

I understand the need to have a ready access airport for the Air Force due to the caliente (hot) relationship with Cuba, the proximity to the Panama Canal, and the loco Chavez in Venezuela. Also, a space port near Homestead would be better located populace wise than any other airport in case of an accident (over water for a launch). For this reason, keep a skeleton crew for the time being but keep developers on cargo OUT.

L. Ress

If people are concerned about jobs, let's get them to work rebuilding the environment back to its natural state. That's the kind of employment that will pay dividends for decades to come, not just lining the pockets of developers who could care little about future generations only their own heirs.

Mixed use. Again, something that destroys the naturalness of the area. I love to play golf, but we need another course like I need another whole in the head.

L. Ress

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Are the developers in such a rush to build because they are afraid if the people really understand what's happening the project will be halted? Are they worried a President with the will of a Teddy Roosevelt will declare the whole South Miami-Dade region an environmentally sensitive, off-limits area to development?

This whole project stinks of backroom politics, deals made between developers and politicians who only care about money, no matter how its gained.

I am so sick of these pro-developers, politicians pontificating behind their so-called righteous Christianity, when, if they had any vision for what nature has given, they'd understand preservation is what God wants.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Ress, Lawrence  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 915 N.W. 1st Ave suite 2513  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: Fla. 33136

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000129

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Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

NOT ONLY Am I against more development in this area, I would like to see public lands being used to return the Everglades to its pristine natural state. Consider jobs, environment, long term water clarity and cleanliness issues. Get the Army Corps of engineers and their concrete constructions out of the gorgeous filtering system that is the Everglades.

NO Airport, no dual use. NO ACTION. the opposite -- Let's dig up the H.A.F.R. and replant indigenous species where the old runways were. In Peace,

Sincerely,  
Miriam J. Oppenheimer

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Miriam Oppenheimer  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 3720 Tatum Waterway #4  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami Beach, FL 33141  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33141

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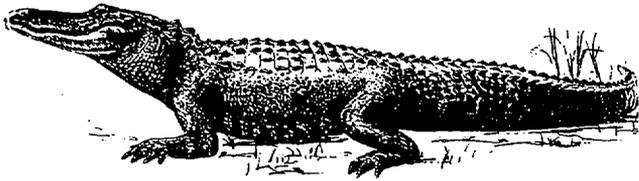
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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

COMMENTS

EVERGLADES

000130

NATIONAL PARK.



AMERICAN ALLIGATOR.

BY:

DATE:



Florida

Panther



Florida

Black Bear



Grass Pink

Orchid



Clam shell

Orchid



Tree Snail



Butterfly

Birds of the Everglades

000131



← Snowy egret

white ibis →



← wood stork

Bald  
Eagle



White  
Crowned

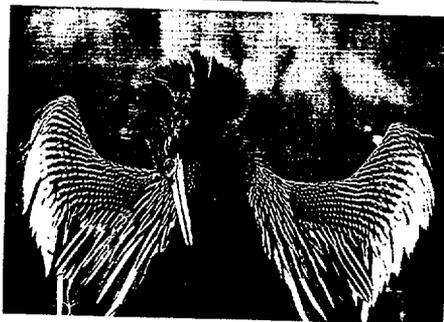


Pigeon



purple  
gallinule

anhinga



Brown  
Pelican



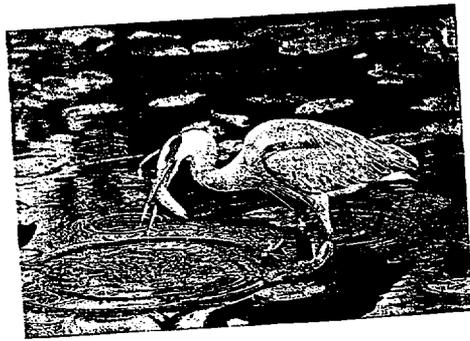
Snail  
Kite



COMMENTS



Roseate Spoonbill ↑



Great  
Blue  
Heron →



000133

**Latin Builders Association, Inc.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE *Latin Builders Assoc*  
 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF  
 HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE AS HOMESTEAD REGIONAL  
 AIRPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUPPLEMENTAL  
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR DISPOSAL OF  
 PORTIONS OF THE FORMER HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE,  
 AS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE IN  
 DECEMBER, 1999; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF  
 RESOLUTION, PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in August of 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated the southern portion of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary economic and employment centers destroyed by Hurricane Andrew was the Homestead Air force Base; and

WHEREAS, after Hurricane Andrew, Homestead Air Force Base was closed in the BRAC process and later redefined as a significantly reduced air reserve operation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration (the "FAA") have recently completed the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (the "SEIS") concerning disposal of the portions of the former Homestead Air Force Base (the "AFB"), dated December, 1999; and

WHEREAS, at the insistence of the Clinton Administration and various environmental organizations, the people of Homestead and South Miami-Dade County had been forced for several years to set aside all expectations of new jobs and economic recovery while both a Sensitivity Analysis (whose conclusions

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2

were the same as the 1994 Final Environmental Impact Statement) and the SEIS were completed; and

WHEREAS, a unique opportunity presently exists to promote the economic recovery of southern Miami-Dade County by providing for the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport; and

WHEREAS, this opportunity must be pursued without further delay; and

WHEREAS, the SEIS indicates that the use of surplus of the AFB for the development of a commercial airport, to be designated as Homestead Regional Airport, as proposed by Miami-Dade County, can be accomplished in a manner which is compatible with the environment; and

WHEREAS, it is also clear, as the SEIS indicates, that commercial air activity at the Homestead facility will not have "any significant impact on our national parks and/or their surroundings"; and

WHEREAS, the Homestead Regional Airport will generate thousands of new jobs and will facilitate the development of airport facilities and commercial and industrial enterprises; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Homestead Regional Airport will enable the southern Miami-Dade County community to make substantial progress in recovering from the devastating impact of Hurricane Andrew and the closure of Homestead Air Force Base; and

3

WHEREAS, the Homestead Regional Airport would provide scheduled air passenger services, as well as air freight, air cargo, and general aviation operations; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County needs a second commercial airport and, as found in the SEIS, the only suitable site for a second airport is the former Homestead Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, aviation services provided by Homestead Regional Airport would serve to provide much needed relief to Miami International Airport ("MIA") by serving as a reliever airport; and

WHEREAS, MIA would greatly benefit from a reliever airport to mitigate the heavy demand created by the growing quantity of international traffic; and

WHEREAS, the runway at Homestead Regional Airport can readily accommodate all types of aircraft in the civil fleet, and must, in any event, remain active in the future to meet U.S. Military and U.S. Customs needs; and

WHEREAS, the SEIS indicates that a commercial airport facility can be developed in a manner that respects our environment, while alleviating the long term planning problems of air capacity for Miami-Dade County, but more importantly, fulfilling the federal government's commitment made many years ago, to help revitalize our economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE *LBA Board of*  
*Directors* AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Recitals adopted. That each of the above stated recitals are hereby confirmed and adopted.

000134

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am a native Miamian - I was born here in 1946. My parents used Homestead Air Base for everything as my father was retired military. I do not want the Airport to take over. I don't know if it is possible to our beloved Everglades National Park + Biscayne Bay. I have the peace a quite subround in that area - I want to see a dirt by water and not do it at next to our National Park. I am sure if enough heads were put together someone could come up with a much better plan for that huge space that would benefit all of us - We need to think about our future + all the mistakes made in the past - do learn from them. National Park must be protected even from us.

CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE  
CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO

NAME/NOMBRE: Cathy M. Stripling  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 6503 SW 52 Ter  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33155

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

Section 2. Statement of Support. That the L.B.A. hereby expresses its strong support for the development of Homestead Regional Airport, in accordance with the proposal of Miami-Dade County, Florida, as evaluated in the SEIS of December, 1999.

Section 3. Request for Action. That the L.B.A. calls upon all interested parties to move forward with this essential project.

Section 4. Distribution of Resolution. That a copy of this resolution shall be distributed to the Honorable Albert Gore, Jr., the South Florida Congressional Delegation, the United States Air Force, the FAA, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Mayor Alex Penelas of Miami-Dade County, Mayor Otis Wallace of Florida city, Mayor Steve Shiver of the City of Homestead, the County Manager of Miami-Dade County, the Director of MIA, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, and to other interested parties as designated by the Chamber.

Section 5. That this Resolution shall be effective immediately from and after its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3 day of January, 2000.

[Signature]  
Executive Vice President

ATTEST:

000135

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-5-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

The Airport was a good undertaking and will provide the city with the public hearing process and a requirement for NEPA. The airport does not highlight adverse impacts to the environment and does not displace an airport facility in Homestead. Commercial airport comes in many sizes. Equival. Cargo or Executive Airline would destroy the economic dynamics in Homestead. Airport would further impact the environment. Commercial flight by citizens surrounding airports do not address the impact to development like the Calica plan would bring. This plan too impacts water quality, air quality, noise, and other surrounding water use. It is better than current airport. The build out of such a plan seems to be close to what should be done. The airport would be surrounded by use for this new development. Should not be less water. Remain? and how compatible is this to the grand Calica development.

CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE  
CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO

NAME/NOMBRE: Alicia M. Sanchez  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 7910 SW 136th Street  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33176

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000136

The Mission of Dinner Key by Dr. John G. Gifford - March 18 1934

64 years ago...

Excerpt:

A Large percentage of our people have no use for the cheaper, flatter common forms of amusement. They want something recreational and educational, regardless of age. For that reason various places of unusual beauty and interest such as our national parks and monuments have become attractive to a large number of travelers. What therefore was designed as mainly preservational has become decidedly recreational and educational and in consequence at the same time financially profitable. The larger the number of preserved and protected beauty spots of interest the larger the number of tourists and also, of course, hotels and other means for their education and entertainment.

The so-called tourist business is no longer just a catering to the physical wants of the individual, it is a science of entertainment in which education as to things of interest becomes an attractive necessity for a large percentage of visitors. They are not all interested

in races and night clubs. There is fortunately a large percentage interested in the natural history of the regions they visit. Certain forms of entertainment you can produce and secure anywhere but interesting objects or natural formation or historical interest are local. Regardless of what may be said to the contrary, national parks are lures and essential adjuncts to travel. See American first has always been a good slogan in no better way can you lure and hold visitors than by rendering beauty and curiosity spots available to the newcomer.

Although the national park idea has preservation mainly in mind, recreation and education for the masses of our people are a close second. As time goes on the educational feature of our national parks grows until now the great majority of our park visitors not only enjoy it but are willing to pay for it.

Manay Lee - for this reason I want to go with the Collier plan. It will not impact the parks at all. There will be no more pollution and it will have less impact on the environment.







000148

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-3-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I support the mixed use proposal. It represents a better solution to the employment situation in Homestead. Also it is less impact in the natural resources. The people of South Dade need to be in a place that is quiet. Also the tourist that come to this area will never come back. So not only the birds will go away, the "Snowbirds", winter tourist, will not come back to this area. If they don't come the economy will also be affected.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTIENE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Jorge H. Acevedo  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 2710 SW 142 Ave  
CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33032-7586

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000149

HOMESTEAD AIRBASE REDEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARINGS  
RENAISSANCE BALLROOM  
FEBRUARY 3, 2000

Remarks by Robert D. Cruz, Ph.D.

Good evening members of the panel and the public, my name is Robert Cruz, I'm an economist and resident of Miami-Dade County.

Over the course of these public hearings you have heard many arguments in favor of the County's proposal.

- The development of a limited commercial airport will generate a large number of jobs and income in an area that is economically depressed and desperately waiting for economic revitalization.
- The county needs to build additional air transport capacity in order to keep its economy moving forward. Air transport is one of the key industries that underpins much of the local economy - essential for international commerce and tourism.
- The development of a limited commercial airport at the site can be accomplished without severe damage to the natural environment, which we all treasure.
- The conveyance of the property to the County will keep a public asset in the hands of the public. The proposed alternative converts a public asset into a private one and begs the question: What is the over-riding public interest that justifies such an unusual action?

Supporters of the alternative mixed use proposal - which is now a vaguely described combination of two previously competing proposals - want to suggest to you that the alternative proposal will have nearly the same economic impact with less environmental harm. The numbers that I've heard mention are simply the addition of impacts that were previously calculated separately. It is important to recognize, however, that the previously separate proposals cannot be simply overlaid one on top of the other - and the impact of the combined projects is much less than the sum of previously separate projects.

000150

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-3-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Please consider the quality of life issue in your deliberations. With in South Florida area sandwiched a city between the ocean and a tropical wilderness. It is developed with homes and business continually from east to west. We have no big city parks or county parks when its time to "unwind" and get some R & R we have only Chesler's National Park and agricultural land in south Dade. By developing the HAFB you snuff the total revitalization of Dade County from border to border. You can't believe that the city, developed to the park border will not degrade its quality. We have no mountains to run to, no desert, no forest. Just the Chesler's. Please leave it for us as it is, and deny the development of this air port.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTIENE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Steven Siegel  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 1160 96th St #402  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami Beach, FL 33154  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Both of the alternative projects call for the use of essentially the same land area. I don't see how one can build moderate to high density housing on top of a golf course and luxury RV park; or buildings for industrial uses on top of open space. Of course this can't be done. How these proposals are to be merged into one must be clearly articulated, because only then can one get a better handle on the expected economic impacts. It cannot be said, however, that the combined Collier/Hoover plan will generate nearly as many jobs as the County's plan.

Both the Collier and Hoover plans separately or jointly are not adequately supported by a study of market demand.

- The demand for residential housing at the site is not self evident - there is no shortage of residential space in the area because there are no employment centers or other attractors nearby.
- There is no pressing demand for a golf course or an RV park in this area.
- Without a commercial airport there will be little demand for industrial space as envisioned in the alternative proposals.

In sum, I believe that it is very doubtful that the economic impacts claimed by the supporters of the alternative proposals will actually be realized. In contrast, the need and market demand for a new limited commercial airport is well supported. I hope you will take these points into consideration as you make your final decision.



000155

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am in favor of the base

NAME/NOMBRE: AKA Latras

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 8153 NW 140 Lk

CITY/CUIDAD: Miami

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33018

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Homestead SEIS

AFRCA/EX

1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300

Arlington, VA 22209-2802

FAX: 703-696-8828

000157

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am in favor of the  
Homestead Airport - it is a  
necessity for this county.

NAME/NOMBRE: STEVE REINING

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 17101 FLA

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33185

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Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/2/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am in favor of the base for the  
FLA. I will not object to the  
base.

NAME/NOMBRE: [Signature]

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 8153 NW 140 Lk

CITY/CUIDAD: Miami

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33018

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Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb. 3, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

The airport initiative for Homestead will result in an  
environmental disaster. The proximity of the airport  
to Escarpment National Park and Everglades National Park  
would affect the wildlife in both of these unique  
habitats. We need to delay the line thru, to prevent the  
further degradation of the fragile environment of both  
habitats. Let us now preserve the precious and limited  
natural resources of our region for future generations.  
Once lost, they will never be regained.

NAME/NOMBRE: JO BEAM SPEAR

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 4917 S.W. 71 PL.

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33185

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COMMENTS

000159

GOOD EVENING, MEMBERS OF THE AIRFORCE AND THE FAA

I'M KATY SORENSON, COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 8, REPRESENTING THE AREA FROM KENDALL TO HOMESTEAD.

WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLOSE AN UNFORTUNATE CHAPTER OF SOUTH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HISTORY AND HELP US BEGIN TO CREATE A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PROSPERITY AND THE BEST PROTECTION FOR OUR NATIONAL PARKS. WE CAN ASK THE PRESIDENT TO APPROVE THE COLLIER FAMILY'S PROPOSED SWAP OF MINERAL RIGHTS FOR LAND AT THE FORMER HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE.

IN 1995, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GRANTED A NO-BID LONG TERM LEASE TO HABDI, A GROUP OF DEVELOPERS, TO BUILD AN AIRPORT. I, AS ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF SOUTH MIAMI-DADE, OPPOSED THIS VIGOROUSLY, BUT WAS OUTVOTED. HOWEVER, IT'S A NEW DAY.

THE COLLIER AND HOOVER FAMILIES (COLLIER OF COLLIER COUNTY AND LACEY HOOVER CHASE, GRANDDAUGHTER OF HERBERT HOOVER, WHO HELPED ESTABLISH BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK) HAVE COLLABORATED TO DEVELOP A

FIRST CLASS GOLF COURSE/BUSINESS PARK WITH A HOTEL-RESORT, AN AQUARIUM/MARINE INSTITUTE AND LUXURY RV COMMUNITY. THE PLAN WILL CREATE MORE THAN 6800 JOBS INITIALLY AND MORE THAN 20,000 EVENTUALLY, MORE THAN REPLACING THE JOBS LOST AFTER HURRICANE ANDREW DESTROYED THE AIR BASE.

THE COLLIER-HOOVER PLAN OFFERS MANY ADVANTAGES. FIRST, IT IS COMPATIBLE WITH SOUTH MIAMI-DADE GOALS OF 1994: REDEVELOPING THE BASE, SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE AND EXPANDING TOURISM. IN CONTRAST, AN AIRPORT THREATENS AGRICULTURE BY PAVING THE WAY FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBAN SPRAWL THAT WOULD DEVOUR AVAILABLE FARM LAND, AND THREATENS TOURISM BY CREATING A NOISY, POLLUTING NEIGHBOR TO BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK AND ITS WATER, VISITORS, AND FISHERPEOPLE. AND IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD DO TO THE QUALITY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VALUES.

SECOND, THE COLLIER-HOOVER PLAN TAKES THE POLITICS OUT OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. THE COLLIERIES HAVE PROPOSED SWAPPING THE LAND FOR MINERAL RIGHTS THEY OWN IN THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. IF THE COLLIERIES DO THE TRANSACTION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, THE COUNTY WILL HAVE NO CLAIM TO THE LAND OR OBLIGATION TO HABDI, ITS CHOSEN DEVELOPER. FURTHER, IT MAKES THE LAND TAXABLE PROPERTY FOR THE COUNTY.

MOREOVER, IT MUST BE POINTED OUT THAT THE REAL CHOICE IS NOT BETWEEN THE COLLIER-HOOVER PLAN AND AN AIRPORT. THE CHOICE IS RATHER BETWEEN THE GREEN PLAN OR A RED LIGHT. THAT'S BECAUSE THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY IS READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO WAGE A PROTRACTED LEGAL BATTLE TO STOP AN AIRPORT. THAT WOULD MEAN THAT THE FORMER AIR BASE COULD GROW WEEDS AND COBWEBS-- NOT JOBS-- FOR ANOTHER DECADE. AND WHO WOULD HAVE TO INVEST IN LEGAL FEES TO FIGHT THIS WAR? THE TAXPAYERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. BECAUSE UNDER ITS CONTRACT, HABDI HAS NO OBLIGATION TO PAY A DIME. AND EVEN IF AN AIRPORT DOES EVENTUALLY OBTAIN APPROVAL AFTER YEARS OF LITIGATION, WHO WILL PAY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, BUFFER LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION? AGAIN, THE TAXPAYERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. FINALLY, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY AIRLINES WILL EVER BE WILLING TO INVEST IN AN AIRPORT 25 MILES AWAY FROM THE MAIN AIRPORT. GIVEN ITS PROXIMITY TO MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND OTHER MAJOR TRANSPORTATION HUBS, OPA-LOCKA IS CLEARLY BETTER SITUATED TO SERVE AS A RELIEVER AIRPORT TO MIAMI. THIS FACT WAS CLEARLY POINTED OUT IN A COUNTY STUDY CONDUCTED BY DAMES AND MOORE IN 1995.

IT HAS BEEN A LONG WAIT FOR THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH MIAMI-DADE TO ENJOY THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY WE ENVISIONED LONG AGO. YET I HAVE NEVER FELT AS HOPEFUL ABOUT THE FATE OF THE AIR BASE AS I DO NOW. FOR YEARS, MANY RESIDENTS THOUGHT THEY'D HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH THE

HABDI PLAN BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE. NOW THERE IS ONE. THE COLLIER-HOOVER PLAN FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE, ENVIRONMENTAL SENSE AND CAN HAPPEN FASTER THAN ANY OTHER OPTION. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THE AIR FORCE, FAA, AND THE POWERS THAT BE, WILL SEE THE LOGIC AND CONVEY THE LAND QUICKLY TO THE COLLIER FAMILY SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CAN GET ON WITH OUR FUTURE.

000160

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2-3-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

IN FAVOR OF HOMESTEAD AIRPORT  
DANE COUNTY & VERMILION, AN AIRPORT

Blank lines for additional comments.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINIR AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: MR. DILLASANO

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 1155 S.W. 43rd Ln.

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33155

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000162

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2/03/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

IN FAVOR OF BUILDING  
AN AIRPORT IN HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

Blank lines for additional comments.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINIR AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: K. DAUPHIN

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 18201 Belview Drive

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FLORIDA 33157

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Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: Feb 3, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

YES BUILD AIRPORT

Blank lines for additional comments.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINIR AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: JIMMY D. HANLEY

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 1174 HAZARD

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI BEACH

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FLA 33166

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2-3-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

IN FAVOR OF REBUILDING  
HOMESTEAD AIRPORT

Blank lines for additional comments.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINIR AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: FRANK A. CRARY

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 675 W 64th

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI BEACH, FLA 33112

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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COMMENTS

000164

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci6n

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*Joseph of Homestead AirPort*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Leslie Roe Rigone*  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *5425 SW 37th*  
CITY/CUIDAD: *MIA*  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *FLA 33155*

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Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci6n

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*The State of Maryland Airport road*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Robert D. Allen*  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *10750 SW 49 St*  
CITY/CUIDAD: *Miami, Fla*  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *33185*

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci6n

DATE/FECHA: 2-3-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*In Favor of Building Homestead*

*AIR PORT*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Walter Griffiths*  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *2505 NW 108th*  
CITY/CUIDAD: *Sunrise FL*  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *33322*

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci6n

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I AM IN FAVOR OF Building Homestead*

*AirPort*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Joseph J. Puchonakis*  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *598 W. 45 St*  
CITY/CUIDAD: *MIA FL 33013*  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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00016H

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-3-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*In Favor of Homestead N/A Part*

NAME/NOMBRE: *LARRY BRITTON*

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *3201 SW 157 TRAIL*

CITY/CIUDAD: *MIAMI*

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *FL 33157*

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00016G

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*In Favor of Airport*

NAME/NOMBRE: *EDWIN LAMA*

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *650 NW 14 DR #204*

CITY/CIUDAD: *MIAMI, FL*

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *FLORIDA, 33172*

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA:

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*In Favor of Building Dade County Air*

NAME/NOMBRE: *AET DIAZ*

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *2227 SW 57 st.*

CITY/CIUDAD: *Miami, Fla 3*

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *33155*

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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/4/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*In Favor of Airport*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Dennis Savin*

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *1220 SW 177 ST*

CITY/CIUDAD: *Miami*

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *FLA 33175*

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000172

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2/3/00

PLEASE PRINT/AYOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
I am in favor of rebuilding Homestead Airport.

NAME/NOMBRE: Christopher A. Ward  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 29450 S.W. 202 Ave  
CITY/CUADRA: Homestead FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33030

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.  
Se publicara sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su direccion personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta informacion es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Homestead SEIS  
APCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

000174

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2-3-2000

PLEASE PRINT/AYOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
WE NEED THE JOBS BADLY PLEASE  
HELP US SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES

NAME/NOMBRE: STEPHEN G. ROSENTHAL SR.  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 1119 S.W. 87 ST 1B-315  
CITY/CUADRA: MIAMI FL 33183

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Homestead SEIS  
APCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

000173

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 3 Feb 00

PLEASE PRINT/AYOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
I am in favor of the airport

NAME/NOMBRE: William S. LaRocca  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 9322  
CITY/CUADRA: Miami FL 33179

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.  
Se publicara sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su direccion personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta informacion es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Homestead SEIS  
APCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

000175

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/FECHA: 2-3-2000

PLEASE PRINT/AYOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
DANNY L. KOLHAGE  
SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES OF THE  
HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE OTHER THAN A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the citizens of Monroe County enjoy an unique community character and one steward of an unique and fragile environment;  
WHEREAS, the unique character of the keys, particularly the Upper Keys, can be substantially affected by land use decisions in southern Miami-Dade County;  
WHEREAS, the use and enjoyment of keys waters depends in large measure on the tranquility and peace of those waters and the disposal over those waters;  
WHEREAS, the fishing industry, in the keys, including guided fly-fishing, requires tranquil and peaceful waters to maintain its economic viability;  
WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport would cause a significant increase in the frequency of jet flights, and thus incidents of noise intrusions over the Upper Keys;  
WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport would change land use patterns in south Miami Dade County, thereby creating adverse pressures on land use and the comprehensive plan in the Upper Keys;  
WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport has the great potential to increase pollution in Biscayne Bay;  
WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base, an area subject to the same hurricane threats and potential evacuation orders as the Florida Keys, will add traffic congestion to the only artery available to evacuate Keys residents;

FILED FOR RECORD  
00 FEB -1 PM 3:21  
RESOLUTION NO. 36 -2000  
DANNY L. KOLHAGE  
SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES OF THE  
HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE OTHER THAN A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT  
Mayor Shirley Freeman

FEB 03 00 14:25 NO. 007 P. 02

FEB 03 00 14:58

WHEREAS, Monroe County depends upon the federal government to protect the interests of the Keys in the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, supports the conveyance of the former Homestead Air Force Base for development alternatives other than a commercial airport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US Air Force and FAA, in receiving public input on the Environmental Impact Study, conduct a public hearing in Key Largo to receive input on the impact of the proposed redevelopment, particularly in the areas of Growth Management and hurricane evacuation as well as environmental impacts.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 19th day of January, 2000.

Mayor Shirley Freeman
Commissioner Wilhelming Harvey
Commissioner George Neugent
Commissioner Mary Kay Reich
Commissioner Nora Williams
ISE
Alfred DASHLEY, CLERK
By: Deborah A. Mantia
Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Shirley Freeman
Mayor/Chairperson

YES
YES
YES
YES
YES

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
BY: [Signature]
ROBERT W. [Signature]
DATE: 1-20-00



TONI JENNINGS
President of the Senate



JOHN THRASHER
Speaker of the House of Representatives

000178

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

February 2, 2000

The Honorable Albert Gore
Vice President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

This letter is in support of the proposal by Miami-Dade County to convert the Homestead Air Force Base into a new commercial airport. As you are aware, Miami-Dade's proposal has been the subject of thorough and comprehensive research. That research supports the expeditious adoption of this proposal.

The most significant aspect of the development of the commercial airport is the economic opportunity that it will provide South Dade. Infrastructure development can encourage and strengthen long-term economic growth. Recent estimates suggest that the development of the commercial airport, at completion, would directly result in the creation of over 17,000 jobs. Additionally, it is projected that over 20,000 off-site jobs would sustain the commercial airport. Overall, the commercial airport would provide a stable economic base for South Dade.

While continued economic growth is paramount, it is also necessary to analyze the environmental effects of the proposed development. Over the last six years, several reports have been produced regarding the disposal of Homestead Air Force Base. Last December, the most comprehensive report, the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was released. Several findings in that report should be noted. The Draft SEIS found that, overall, the development would have negligible or minimal environmental impacts. It is actually projected that with the mandatory implementation of the Surface Water Management Master Plan, the freshwater discharges into the Biscayne Bay will decrease 28% by 2015. Noise impacts on both national parks and the local community are so small that a noise management and mitigation plan will not be required.

SENATE CLERK AND THE CLERK, 400 SOUTH MONROE STREET, FALLS PALMEE, FLORIDA 33109-1100, TELEPHONE 405-440-1101
HOUSE CLERK AND THE CLERK, 400 SOUTH MONROE STREET, FALLS PALMEE, FLORIDA 33109-1100, TELEPHONE 405-440-1100
LEGISLATIVE VIDEO: 787-8800, 787-8800 & 800

February 1, 2000
Page 2

Given the fact that Miami-Dade County will require additional commercial airport capacity, the proposal to develop the Homestead Air Force Base offers the county an environmentally responsible way to meet that need and provide economic growth for South Dade. It is our hope that the federal government will look favorably on the most expeditious adoption of this plan.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Toni Jennings
Senate President

[Signature]
John Thrasher
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Homestead SEIS, AFBCA/EX
1700 North Moore Street, Suite 2300
Arlington, Va. 22209-2802

000178

Steven Aderhold
PO Box 1135
Fallbrook, Ca. 92088

To Whom It Concerns,

I would like to comment on the proposed airport in Homestead, Florida. I have just read that the proposed airport would have one flight almost every minute, that would have quite an impact on the noise level in the surrounding area. I have lived around a few airports and they do get loud and bothersome. I understand that there is a national park nearby how is this noise going to effect the animals in the park plus on the campers. Now I sure do prefer it to be calm and quiet when I'm out camping. Everyone reacts differently to noise.

How is the proposed airport going to handle all the pollutants that are inherent in an airport; the air pollutants, the lead, and the other hazardous chemicals? Without a proper plan these pollutants will end up in the Everglades air, and into the waters of Biscayne Bay. Now I haven't seen the Bay but I have seen polluted water and it isn't anything that draws visitors. Plus once in the water the pollutants will also effect people because it will be in the drinking water, and the animals will also be effected the same way. There goes the fishing and the other wildlife in the area.

From what I have read even your own environmental impact statement concluded that this airport would have a devastating effect on the whole area. I am not sure why you are even asking for comments but this idea doesn't sound like a very good one. I would like to go on record as being against the proposed airport and would like to ask that it be stopped.

Respectfully,

Steven Aderhold

COMMENTS

000179

NATHAN WYETH  
4717 FALSTONE AVE  
CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

January 23, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street,  
Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209-2802

To whom it may concern:

I recently took a trip to the Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, and to get there I had to drive all the way through Florida. To tell you the truth, none of it looked very appealing to me until I got to the Everglades in the very Southwestern tip. Just about everything before that was Disneyworld and strip malls. That is why Everglades and Biscayne National Parks are so valuable — they are the only significant areas in southern Florida that is still wilderness — and that is why I vehemently oppose the idea of creating a large airport on the very doorstep of the park.

A new airport at Homestead AFB would mean one flight almost every minute, the parks would be filled with airplane noise, the airport would emit seven tons of toxic air pollutants every day into the pristine Everglades air, and lead and other hazardous chemicals would wash into the tropical waters of Biscayne Bay. This new airport would only lead to more development in an area that is already over-developed and has its resources stretched as thin as they can go. For every new housing development, that means less water can go to the Everglades, which are literally dying for water.

The rest of Florida is already covered in sprawl and development — please let the one place that has not remain in its nearly pristine state. Please do not go forward with the airport at Homestead, Florida, and help to keep our National Parks, our national treasures, clean and free from encroaching development. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Nathan Wyeth

cc: President Bill Clinton

000160

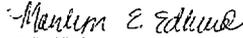
January 22, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore St. Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209-2802

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter to urge you not to develop an airport in Homestead, Florida. Such a facility would have a tremendously damaging effect on two of this nation's greatest natural resources. Toxic chemicals and noise pollution that would be generated from an airport would cause irreparable damage to two distinctly fragile ecosystems as well as disturb many species of wildlife that inhabit The Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. Many of the species of wildlife that would be affected by an airport are presently on Endangered or Threatened species lists. It would simply be an irresponsible act for the Air Force to develop an Airport of any kind in the Homestead area. Please act responsibly and cancel your plans for the facility in Homestead, Florida.

Sincerely,

  
Marilyn Edlund  
15005 S.E. 171<sup>st</sup> Street  
Renton WA 98058

000161

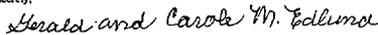
January 22, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore St. Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209-2802

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are writing this letter to urge you not to develop an airport in Homestead, Florida. Such a facility would have a tremendously damaging effect on two of this nation's greatest natural resources. Toxic chemicals and noise pollution that would be generated from an airport would cause irreparable damage to two distinctly fragile ecosystems as well as disturb many species of wildlife that inhabit The Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. Many of the species of wildlife that would be affected by an airport are presently on Endangered or Threatened species lists. It would simply be an irresponsible act for the Air Force to develop an Airport of any kind in the Homestead area. Please act responsibly and cancel your plans for the facility in Homestead, Florida.

Sincerely,



Gerry and Carole Edlund  
15005 S.E. 171<sup>st</sup> Street  
Renton WA 98058

James Elliott Benjamin

000182

511 11th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215-4303  
tel: (718) 369-4939  
fax: (718) 369-2686  
jamesben@mindspring.com

January 24, 2000

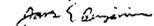
Air Force  
Homestead SEIS, AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street,  
Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209-2802.

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that the ENS draft study of a proposed airport in Homestead, Florida, would have a devastating effect on adjacent Everglades and Biscayne National Park. With one flight almost every minute, the parks would be filled with airplane noise, the airport would emit seven tons of toxic air pollutants every day into the pristine Everglades air, and lead and other hazardous chemicals would wash into the tropical waters of Biscayne Bay.

As concerned citizens and taxpayers, we strongly object to this proposed airport and to anything that would do any more damage to the Everglades and Biscayne National Park. The effect of all of the toxic pollutants will adversely affect our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

Sincerely,

  
James Elliott Benjamin

000183

1650 Army Dr.  
York, PA 17404  
January 05, 2000

Homestead SEIS

AFBCA/EX

1700 North Moore St.

Suite 2300

Arlington, Virginia 22209-2802

Dear Air Force Personnel,

I WOULD LIKE TO VOICE MY OPPOSITION TO THE CREATING OF A PROPOSED AIRPORT IN HAWK CREEK, FLORIDA. OUR NATURAL PARKS ARE OUR ONLY LINK TO THE NATURAL WORLD OF CENTURIES AGO. IF THIS AIRPORT IS CONSTRUCTED AND THE AROUND IT TRAFFIC WOULD DESTROYED GOALS IT WOULD HAVE A DEVIATING EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE CLOSEST NATURAL

PARK TO THE SITE THE EVERGLADES. YOUR OWN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WARNED OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. I AM HERE TO PEOPLE NEED THE WARRIORSHIP IF YOU RETRACT AND CONCLUDE THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH AN AIRPORT WOULD BECOME HAZAROUS THAN GOOD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION TO MY COMMENTS.



Sincerely,  
Arlene  
MARTIN

000184

JAN 25, 2000  
THIS IS TO ANNOUNCE MY AGREEMENT WITH THE AIR FORCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CONCLUSION OF THE POTENTIAL DEVASTATING EFFECTS ON ADJACENT EVERGLADES AND BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK IF A PROPOSED AIRPORT AT HAWK CREEK IS ALLOWED.

I AM AGAINST THE RESULTING POLLUTION FROM AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS AT THE EDGE OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS.

Sincerely,  
Gerald W. Wallam

000185

Jan. 21, 2000

Homestead SEIS

AFBCA/EX

1700 North Moore St.

Suite 2300

Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Administrator:

I fully believe that the proposed airport to be built in Homestead, FL would be severely damaging to the Everglades ecosystem. The Everglades are just beginning to recover from years of "channel control" which has depleted the water flow into the ecosystem. Why invite a daily "toxic rain" of air pollutants, noise, and stress on one of the most endangered areas in our national park system? I firmly oppose this misguided airport.

Sincerely,  
Lary Little  
3781 Dial Drive  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

000186

ROGER AND LOIS BENJAMIN  
7580 FAIRMONT CT.  
BOSTON, MA 02114  
508-451-1444

Air Force SEIS, AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street,  
Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209-2802.

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to our attention that the ENS draft study of a proposed airport in Homestead, Florida, would have a devastating effect on the Everglades ecosystem. The proposed airport would fill the airport every minute, the parks would be filled with noise. The airport would emit seven tons of toxic air pollutants every day into the pristine Everglades air, and lead and other hazardous chemicals would wash into the tropical waters of Biscayne Bay.

As concerned citizens and taxpayers, we strongly object to this proposed airport and to anything that would do any more damage to the Everglades and Biscayne National Park. The effect of all of the toxic pollutants will adversely affect our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

Sincerely,

Roger & Lois Benjamin

Lois and Roger Benjamin

**COMMENTS**

**M.K. BUHLER** 000187  
 Freelance Writer \* Screenwriter  
 4321 Pompano Drive, S.E.  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
 (727) 895-1468  
 (813) 460-06C4

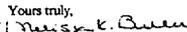
January 23, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 North Moore Street, Ste 2300  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2802.

To Whom it may Concern:

Your plan to build an airport at the edge of The Everglades National Park is a reckless endeavor. This sensitive and vital part of Florida's environment needs a buffer zone without commercial development to maintain its essential ecosystems of plants and animals. This would be put into grave jeopardy by your plans. Please look elsewhere for a location and first ascertain whether another airport here or anywhere is necessary.

Wilderness is a precious resource, today reduced to near extinction. Environmentalists need to see careful forethought involved with any project that will reduce or damage existing wilderness areas. As a member of Sierra Club and N.P.C.A., I feel that your airport will do both. Once gone, even our federal Corps of Engineers won't be able to make the land right again. We must think before we act. So must you. Please re-think the justification for your plan.

Yours truly,  
  
 Melissa K. Buhler

000188

2684 Thornbrook Rd  
 Ellicott City, MD 21042  
 January 22, 2000

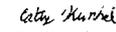
Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 North Moore Street  
 Suite 2300,  
 Arlington VA 22209-2802

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to urge you not to go through with your plans to build the proposed airport in Homestead, Florida, because I believe that such an airport would have devastating effects on the nearby Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. With one flight almost every minute, the parks would be filled with airplane noise. Also, the airport would emit seven tons of toxic air pollutants every day into the pristine air of the two parks, and hazardous chemicals such as lead would be washed into the tropical waters of Biscayne Bay.

Everglades and Biscayne National Parks are already threatened by disrupted water flow, lost wetlands, increased water pollution, invasion of non-native species, shrinking habitat, and development. In recent years, the parks have experienced a ninety-percent decline in the wading bird population, and the habitats for the Florida panther, Cape Sable seaside sparrow, manatee, and other endangered wildlife are rapidly deteriorating. The development of the airport would only create more problems for this fragile area.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,  
  
 Cathy Kunkel

000189

HERBERT S. SAFFIR, Consulting Engineers / 350 Sevilla Avenue, Suite 108, Coral Gables, Florida 33134 / Tel. (305) 444-2611

January 19, 2000

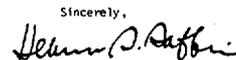
Hon. Carrie P. Meek  
 U.S. Representative  
 401 Cannon House Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meeks:

Thank you for the current environmental reports on Homestead Air Force Base.

Final disposition of this base is extremely important to South Florida and will have a long-term effect on South Florida.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,  
  
 Herbert S. Saffir, P.E., F. ASCE

cc: Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Carole J. Spellman  
 5462 Mayland Avenue  
 San Jose, CA 95138

000190

January 24, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 N. Moore St #2300  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to you to express my concern and dismay over the proposed new airport for the base at Homestead.

Although I no longer live in my hometown of Miami Springs I am still active in speaking out for the welfare of the Everglades and Biscayne National Park. These precious National Park lands have been inundated with humans and all that we bring with us: pollution, noise, need for more and more land and water - all to the detriment of the creatures that dwell there and, eventually, to ourselves.

South Florida is a "Mecca" for retirees but these people (coming still in droves and taking more and more wetlands for development) are not concerned with the long-term environmental impact of so many people and all that it entails. They have a "short-timers" mentality!

You have an opportunity now to look at the big picture and plan for generations to come. Is the only alternative a bigger military airport? Please, take another look at it. Better yet, go to the Everglades and envision the impact your proposed airport will have.

I pray for an awakening of conscience of all South Floridians that they begin to reassess their need for growth versus the need to nurture their environment - the very reason so many have moved down from Northern climes!

Thank you for your time and, please, look at other alternatives and look to the future of South Florida.

Respectfully,  
  
 Carole J. Spellman

000191

Please do not OK the  
 Homestead, Florida  
 airport because it will  
 affect the Everglades &  
 Biscayne National Park  
 with air, water and  
 noise pollution - None  
 of toxic air pollution  
 every day coming from  
 almost one flight/minute.  
 Thank you. Dan Thum

Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 North Moore St  
 Suite 2300  
 Arlington VA 22209-2802

Mr. Thomas King  
 1200 Colgate St  
 Lawrence, CA 94548-3414

000192

January 22, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 North Moore Street  
 Suite 2300  
 Arlington VA 22209-2802

We would like to comment on the Air Force's draft environmental impact statement concerning the proposed airport in Homestead, Florida.

We oppose the building of the airport because it would have a devastating impact on adjacent Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. Flights would move in and out of the airport at a rate of almost one per minute. The report indicates that the airport would emit seven tons of toxic air pollutants every day into the pristine Everglades air; lead and other hazardous chemicals would wash into the tropical waters of Biscayne Bay. Plus the parks would be filled with airplane noise.

Based on the Air Force study, we do not see how relevant U. S. government agencies could conscientiously support the building of the proposed airport.

Sincerely,

*Lucretia A. Flammang*  
 Lucretia A. Flammang  
 47 Lincoln Ave.  
 Norwich CT 06360

000193

"Tidal View"  
 Clark Point Rd.  
 West Tremont, ME 04612-9702

January 22, 2000

SEIS, AFBCA/EX  
 Suite 2300  
 1700 North Moore Street  
 Arlington VA 22209-2802

To whom it may concern:

**TOXIC AIRPORT PROPOSED FOR HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA, MUST BE GROUNDED NOW!**

We understand that a U.S. Air Force draft environmental impact statement (EIS) has concluded that a proposed airport in Homestead, Florida, would have a devastating effect on adjacent Everglades and Biscayne National Park. With one flight almost every minute, the parks would be filled with airplane noise, the airport would emit seven tons of toxic air pollutants every day into the pristine Everglades air, and lead and other hazardous chemicals would wash into the tropical waters of Biscayne Bay! That's about as scary as it gets!

We want to go record as opposing this horrible plan. What a travesty it would be to have national park land subjected to overwhelming pollutants. Please don't let it happen!

Sincerely,

*Bill & Marilyn Voorhies*  
 Bill & Marilyn Voorhies

000194

To whom it may concern:

Building an airport adjacent to the Everglades and next to the Biscayne National Park is a terrible mistake. The impact that this airport will have on the surrounding area will be deadly. We need to continue keeping our parks safe and free from human intervention. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Joe Weichman*  
 Joe Weichman  
 959 Princeton Street  
 Santa Monica, CA 90403

COMMENTS

000195

January 23, 2000

Air Force

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300, Arlington VA 22209-2802

To Whom It May Concern:

We understand that the Air Force is accepting comments on the proposed plan to operate a new airport in Homestead, Florida. This airport would have a devastating effect on important parks in our national park system - the Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. With one flight almost every minute, the parks would be filled with airplane noise, the airport would emit seven tons of toxic air pollutants every day into the pristine Everglades air, and lead and other hazardous chemicals would wash into the tropical waters of Biscayne Bay.

We urge that this plan be abandoned to protect these important areas. Thank you for your attention to our comments.

Sincerely,

*Lisa C. Price*  
Lisa C. Price  
29 Goodway Road  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

*Julie A. Brandlen*  
Julie A. Brandlen  
29 Goodway Road  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

KUMAR VASWANI

January 22, 2000

000196

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street, Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am responding to your request for comments regarding the proposed airport at Homestead, Florida. Please enter this comment into the public record.

The Air Force's draft Environmental Impact Statement has concluded that the proposed facility would have a detrimental effect on Everglades and Biscayne National Park. The air in Everglades would be filled with airplane noise, as well as seven tons of toxic air pollutants every day. Moreover, lead and other hazardous chemicals would end up in the waters of Biscayne Bay.

These parks must be protected. The proposed airport would wreak devastation on these critical areas, and I request that you stop this project.

Sincerely yours,

*Kumar Vaswani*

Kumar Vaswani

P.O. BOX 15350, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

000197

January 13<sup>th</sup> 2000

Attention: Please:  
ASBCA- E.X

I am opposed to Commercial Airport development, at former Homestead, Air Base - The pollution and noise a Commercial Airport would create would be intolerable.

A major concern, also is this Commercial Airport, would be located between the two most endangered National Parks in Country -

Not to mention the threat to citizens because of nuclear plant, "Turkey Point" only 1 mile and half from proposed Airport -

Thank you,  
HARLENE MURPHY  
*Harlene Murphy*  
# 3001  
35303 - SW 185<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Florida City - Florida  
(Homestead) 33034



COMMENTS

000202

*Mr. William E. Edson  
1772 NE Miami Gardens Dr.  
Miami, FL 33179*

*To whom it may concern and  
who determine and/or influence  
I profoundly assure you to  
reject the conversion of the former  
Homestead Air Force Base into  
a commercial air-port.  
Its use as an air-port would  
create considerable environmental  
damage to Florida and to its wild  
life.*

*Respectfully Sincerely,  
William E. Edson.*



2000 Member  
The Humane Society of the United States

000203

February 1, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, Va. 22209-2809

Dear Sir,

I am writing concerning the future of Homestead Reserve Air Base. I live within 2-3 miles of the base's gate and have no desire to have a commercial airport located on this property. The Air Force has always been a good neighbor. I hope you continue to be such and consider what is in the best interest of the total community, not just the city of Homestead.

I do not believe the proposal as presented by HADB I is an appropriate use of the base land. A commercial airport is not in keeping with the agrarian and tourist character of the area. Further, no matter the save guards, a commercial airport puts the national parks on either side at risk of adverse environmental impact. I also object to the manner in which HADB I obtained the "rights" to develop this property without a competitive bid process.

A more suitable usage would be the development as an industrial park. This park could include high tech industries such as biomedical and electronics, entertainment complexes for film or music production, and/or information technology companies. This type of use would provide an economic boost to the locals via jobs (that actually paid a decent wage), and allow for the growth of additional businesses of various sizes.

Barring this type of development, I support the plan put forth by the Collier Family. It is more in keeping with the character of the area, would provide economic growth, and would impact less adversely on the environment of the bordering parks.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Cheryl L. Conrad  
14501 SW 285 St.  
Leisure City, FL 33033-1621  
305-248-0475

*Cheryl L. Conrad*

10353 N. Kendall Drive  
Condo BB-3  
Miami, FL 33176-1626

000204  
January 27, 2000

U.S. Air Force  
HOMESTEAD SEIR  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear US Air Force:

Please do not make the former Homestead Air Force Base into a commercial airport as mentioned in THE MIAMI HERALD today.

I wish you and the President of the USA would see to it that the base is re-built. We live so close to CUBA and the way the Cubans are always dictating to us, it would be a very secure way to keep your eyes on CUBA. I feel they are going to take us over and they will. They want Miami to be Miami, Cuba. They are always flying the Cuban flag and always rioting for the least reason. They want to run this country and little by little they are doing just that, especially here in Miami, Florida.

I am a widow (of USAF Ret. Guy M. Hebb) and he served 25 years in the Air Force and then 17 with the Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Control. I really miss going to the base shopping and saving money. I am on a limited income and the base would mean an awful lot to me.

Please do everything you can to save HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE and re-build it. Bring the big jets back here. I loved them and miss them. We do not need a commercial airport, we need the beautiful US Air Force!

Most sincerely,  
*Frances E. Hebb*  
Frances E. Hebb

000206

US Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Arlington VA 22209-2802

28 January 2000

SF,

As a retired USAF officer, a B-52 pilot, once stationed at Homestead AFB, now residing in the Homestead rural area, I am witness to the over development of a pristine semi-tropical area and the resulting decay and loss of wild-life habitat. Thirty years ago, on a nice day, when I took off from Homestead to the Northeast and looking down I would see thousands of sea birds over Biscayne Bay. The birds were startled at my over flight and other flights which came later.

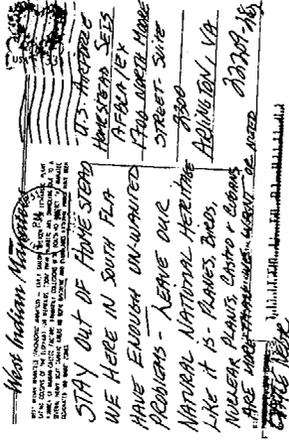
We need to protect the wild life and habitat that is now here and limit, the best we can, the unnecessary development which can affect it. Please, no commercial airport.

Thirty year ago in my yard I entertained wild life beyond belief. Geese today, my fox family, Bob-White family, Finches, Flickers, night hawks, geese see the beautiful area snails, the occasional Indigo snake and more. Yes, hurricanes affect wild life and habitat, therefore we greedy humans must leave enough for wild life and habitat to survive. Remember, there ain't no more.



Roy C. Blaha  
LtCol USAF  
Retired

000207



West Indian Migration  
STAY OUT OF HOME STOPS  
WE HERE IN SOUTH FLA  
HAVE ENOUGH UN-WANTED  
ADDITIONS - LEAVE OUR  
NATURAL NATIONAL HERITAGE  
LIKE IT IS - PALMS, BEACH,  
NOVELTY PLANTS, CHIMP & BOONOS  
ARE NOT PART OF US - WE WANT TO BE  
LEFT ALONE  
US - ARBOR  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 NORTH MOORE  
STREET - SUITE  
ARLINGTON VA  
22209-2802

000208

Dear Air Force:

I hope that you will save the land to recognize that the Everglades are a vital resource and the home to many species that have been decimated by man's abuse of the ecosystem.

There is no part of the natural world that has not been touched by an polluting, menacing, and habitat destruction. Can't we have more respect for the beleaguered Everglades? Why can't we respect the very ecosystems that give us food, clean water, and birds?

Debra M. Cumbly



Heart. Hope.  
Home.

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2100  
Arlington VA 22209-2802

401 Parsons Drive  
Syracuse, New York 13219  
January 28, 2000

000209

Re: Oppose airport development threatening Everglades and Biscayne national parks.  
The Everglades and Biscayne National Parks belong to all of us and to our future generations. Please don't sacrifice them for the short-term potential benefits of an airport that will benefit only a few for only a few decades.

I oppose the Air Force's plan to transfer the former Homestead Air Reserve Base to Dade County for development into a major international airport.

As the Air Force's recently completed Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and other studies concerning the Homestead International Airport have demonstrated, the study also concludes that alternatives to the airport, such as developing the site for mixed commercial and residential use, would have significantly less harmful consequences.

The Air Force should follow the advice of Interior Secretary Babbitt and EPA administrator Browner and the wishes of many, many Americans and abandon this airport development plan. Thank you for considering my comments.

Yours truly,



Janet Allen

COMMENTS

000210

Dear Sir/Honour: 1-26-02  
 I'm writing to you to oppose the proposed Homestead Air Force Base airport. I oppose it due to its unacceptable noise impact on nearby Everglades National Park. There are better places for such infrastructure.  
 Sincerely,  
 Mike Spahn

000211

January 27, 2000  
 Homestead SEIS  
 AFRC/AVX, 1700 North Moore St.  
 Suite 200  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
 Re: Proposed airport in Homestead  
 Gentlemen:  
 I am writing to express my concern over a proposed airport at Homestead. Environmental problems are already stressing the Everglades and Biscayne National Park.  
 The noise from so many flights would have an adverse effect on the wildlife. Toxic air pollutants would fall into the Everglades and hazardous chemicals would wash into Biscayne Bay. When we are in the process of trying to save the Everglades, why build an airport which will have a devastating effect on these parks?  
 Please help protect these parks and resources by not approving the building of this airport.  
 Sincerely,  
 Mrs. Joyce Sivernall  
 Joyce B. Sivernall

000212

1-31-00  
 To whom it may concern,  
 I am writing to register my opposition to the development proposed at the Homestead Base. It will severely harm and destroy the Everglades - a wild, beautiful place.  
 Thank you,  
 Mrs. Colleen Germon  
 5765 Solway Road  
 Miami, FL 33133



000211  
 Melissa Lynn Martin  
 1189 B Ashborough Drive / Marina, Georgia 30067  
 770-477-9333 (cell) melmari136@aol.com

Homestead SEIS  
 AFRC/AVX  
 1700 North Moore Street  
 Suite 200  
 Arlington VA 22209-2802  
 January 31, 2000  
 Melissa Lynn Martin  
 1189 B Ashborough Drive / Marina, Georgia 30067  
 770-477-9333 (cell) melmari136@aol.com  
 000211  
 I have often visited the southern Florida area for extended vacations and am writing you to tell you that I am vehemently opposed to the Air Force's plan to transfer the former Homestead Air Reserve Base to Dade County for development into a major international airport.  
 According to the Air Force's recently completed Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and other studies concerning the Homestead project, this airport would have far more serious consequences for adjacent Everglades and Biscayne Bay than the proposed development. The studies also show that aircraft noise would have significantly less harmful consequences.  
 The Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and the Florida Keys are unique and treasured parts of America's natural history far too important to be sacrificed for an airport.  
 The Air Force should follow the advice of Interior secretary Babbitt and EPA administrator Browner and the wishes of many, many Americans and abandon this airport development plan.  
 Thank you for your attention to this matter.  
 Sincerely,  
 Melissa Lynn Martin  
 Melissa Martin

000219

7940 SW 124 St.  
Pinecrest FL 33156-6032  
January 31, 2000

Homestead SEIS, AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Sir or Madam:

I OPPOSE CONVEYANCE OF THE FORMER HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE PROPERTY FOR COMMERCIAL AVIATION OR SPACEPORT USES, SUCH USES WOULD RUIN BOTH EVERGLADES AND BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARKS.

THERE ARE TWO OTHER DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THIS PROPERTY WHICH WOULD PROVIDE JUST AS MANY JOBS AND WOULD NOT BLIGHT THE ENVIRONMENT.

Sincerely,

*A Eugene Wine*  
A Eugene Wine

## MEMORANDUM

TO: AF Reserve Homestead SEIS

AFBCA/EX

1700 N. Moore St. S. 2300

Arlington VA 22209-2802

DATE

1-31-00

FROM

Michael E. Byrne, Manager  
504 S.W. 20th St.  
Miami, FL 33138

SUBJECT

UNASSAULTED OR NEARBY AIRPORT

MESSAGE

U.S. AIR FORCE HOMESTEAD SEIS, TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.  
My wife and I have lived in the Collier Ridge section of Everglades National Park since September 1988 and we are bringing a comment to your attention. The Homestead Air Force Base is located on the negative western side of the base. It is a lot less than 1/4 mile from the base. There are a lot of trees and a lot of water. There are a lot of trees and a lot of water.

Very Truly Yours  
Michael E. Byrne  
Manager

PLEASE PRINT BY \_\_\_\_\_ NO COPY NECESSARY.

Memorandum

000222

January 31, 2000

910 N. Aukbbon Drive  
Homestead, Florida 33033

U.S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose developing the Homestead Air Reserve Base as a commercial airport.

A few weeks ago I camped with my Broward Girl Scout troop at a park in central Miami near the Homestead International Airport. It amazes me that anyone actually chooses to live near that airport. The noise was disruptive all day and all night. The thought of that sort of facility so near two National Parks is appalling to me.

I hope you seriously consider the alternative plan.

Sincerely,

*Margaret V. Jones*  
Margaret V. Jones

Homestead SEIS

AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

January 31, 2000

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Air Force's plan to transfer the former Homestead Air Reserve Base to Dade County for development into a major international airport.

As the Air Force's recently completed Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and other studies concerning the Homestead Air Reserve Base and the surrounding area also concludes that alternatives to the airport, such as developing the site for mixed commercial and residential use, would have significantly less harmful consequences.

The Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and the Florida Keys are unique and treasured parts of America's great natural heritage. The Homestead Air Reserve Base is a threat to this heritage. Once these areas and their wildlife have been destroyed by commercial and residential development, the Homestead Air Reserve Base's natural heritage will be the poorer for it. The Air Force is an honored institution. It should act with wisdom and honor in preserving this nation's great natural heritage.

The Air Force should follow the advice of Interior Secretary Babbitt and EPA Administrator Brown and the wishes of many Americans and abandon this airport development plan.

Sincerely,

*Lyle E. Sykon*  
Lyle E. Sykon  
22-11 Lakewood Court  
Lake Carroll, IL 61046-9942

CC: President William J. Clinton  
Vice President Al Gore  
Senator Richard Durbin  
Senator Peter Fitzgerald  
Congressman Lane Evans

000235

W-77

Final SEIS





COMMENTS

FEB-02-2000 09:41 AM JIM BOWLING 305 3325121

I 02/02/00  
re: Homestead A.F.B.

I oppose using H.A.F.B. as a heavy commercial airport for the simple reason it will create noise and air pollution which will enlarge and destroy the environment for hundred of miles of the surrounding area - The Fla. Kelp and it waters, the Everglades, its animals, plants and waters.  
I live at Fisher Island

species. in my opinion  
pollute even more than just normal operation -  
we already have a "closed" airport in the Everglades - off 8<sup>th</sup> Street West -  
why don't we remember why it was closed and follow that lesson in this case?

I want you to remember that there is the Florida Keys to protect as well as the

FEB-02-2000 09:41 AM JIM BOWLING 305 3325121 P.02

to the East and South<sup>2</sup> of Miami International Airport and for the last fourteen years I have experienced A.M. and noise pollution from the airplanes, landings but most fall, taking off ones and near my home.  
on several occasions I have seen planes dumping their fuel in anticipation of emer-

FEB-02-2000 09:42 AM JIM BOWLING 305 3325121 P.03

4

National Center!  
Thank you!

James W. Bowlin  
5335 Fisher Island Dr.  
Fisher Island, FL 33109

305-532-3104

P.S. you are welcome to come to my home to do a study to verify what

J. Bowlin

P.

00024:

Homestead SEIS, AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, Va. 22209-2809

RE: Homestead Air Force Base / Conversation - 20yr. Area Resident's Comments

Dear Sir:  
The Commercial Airport is not an option because of the impact on the environment.

Thanks

Kenneth Narbia  
22950 SW 122 PL  
Goulds, FL 33170

FROM : FAX NO. : 3053650225 Feb. 02 2000 09:46PT P1

000246

PETER FARAGO

HOMESTEAD SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700N. MOORE ST. SUITE 2300  
ARLINGTON VA. 22209-2809  
FAX: 703-696-8828

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO GO ON RECORD THAT THIS TAXPAYER WISHES TO EXPRESS STRENUOUS OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED HOMESTEAD COMMERCIAL AIRPORT. THE FLIGHT PATH OF TAKEOFFS WOULD BE RIGHT OVER OUR HEADS AND THE NOISE POLLUTION WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE RESIDENCE HERE NOT ONLY UNPLEASANT BUT WOULD PROBABLY REDUCE THE VALUE OF REAL ESTATE ON THE ISLAND.

WOULD THERE BE A SET ASIDE FUND TO COMPENSATE FOR SUCH REDUCTIONS IN VALUE??

IF THE REPRESENTATION OF DAILY EXHAUST POLLUTION IS CORRECT THE EVENTUAL OPERATIONS ON TWO RUNWAY WOULD PROBABLY MAKE A DEAD SEA OF ALL SURROUNDING WATERS RENDERING SHALLOW WATER SPORT FISHING A THING OF THE PAST. NO DOUBT COMPENSATION WILL BE DUE TO ALL THOSE (GUIDES, ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS ETC.) WHO WILL BE ECONOMICALLY HURT BY THE RUINED RECREATION - FLORIDA'S NUMBER ONE

REVENUE PRODUCER  
*Peter Farago*  
PETER FARAGO  
445 GRAND BAY DRIVE, KEY BISACAYNE FL 33149  
FAX: 305-365-0225

00025:1

January 2000

U.S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2809

To whom it may concern.

I am a resident of S Florida and am writing to object against the planned Homestead commercial airport and in favor of one of the alternatives at Air Force public meetings. The destruction of the quality of life for people and the effect on the ecology of the area is one of major concern. Florida is already over developed and has catered to big business much too often. We need to preserve some sanity for those who live here.

Thank you  
Nancy Berg

00025:2



February 2, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2809

Dear Sir / Madam:

This letter is being written on behalf of the 48 homeowners of the Whispering Pines Lake Owners Association (WPLOA). We are located within seven miles of the current Homestead Air Reserve Base. At our January 24, 2000 member meeting, the members of our association voted unanimously to strongly oppose the redevelopment proposal that calls for an airport. Our members also voted unanimously to support the mixed-use redevelopment proposal which, we believe, is the best approach to achieve the goals for the disposal of this property and which, we believe, will most positively affect the quality of life and economic revitalization issues of not only the immediate local community but also the surrounding communities that will be directly affected by the decision. As the goal is to economically revitalize the area while protecting the national parks, the airport proposal will fail because it (1) will not protect the national parks due to the air, noise, and land pollution that will occur to the areas surrounding the property (a large part of which happens to be national parks), and (2) could very well negatively affect the economics of the area by threatening tourism due to the above described pollution of the national parks. The mixed-use alternative would satisfy the stated goals by providing jobs and other economic growth without affecting the national parks.

Many of our members have been living in our community since the 1950's and have grown up with the unique beauty of the Everglades and of Biscayne National Park. We now wish to share the same unique, unpolluted beauty with our children and grandchildren, as well as continue to showcase it to our tourists. This simply will not happen with the airport proposal.

It would be a shame if this issue is decided based on politics. Rather, the constituents should be the decision makers in this very important decision.

Very truly yours,

*Kevin J. Lockwood*  
Kevin J. Lockwood  
President - WPLOA



000258

ALAN I. MISHAEL  
2850 Sheridan Avenue  
Miami Beach, Florida 33140

January 28, 2000

U. S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Re: Homestead

Dear Sir:

We oppose the planned Homestead, Florida commercial airport. This further degradation of the Everglades ecosystem is unnecessary and merely an attempt by South Florida developers and politicians to enrich themselves at nature's expense. As a native Floridian, I have witnessed the timeless beauty of the Everglades being desecrated by sprawling and mindless development. It is time to draw the line. Moreover, allowing an airport in that particular location would create a catastrophic risk of a nuclear disaster for the following reason: The airport would be next to the Turkey Point nuclear reactor, and government studies establish that there would be a 1000% increase in the likelihood of air crashes in that vicinity due to birds being ingested by jets flying over the reactor.

The beauty of the Everglades is irreplaceable. This national heritage must not be sacrificed for the benefit of builders and their lobbyists.

Very truly yours, -

*Alan I. Mishael*  
Alan I. Mishael

AIM:ca

000259

Mary Clausen  
2636 SE 20th Court  
Homestead, FL 33035

7-3-2440

Dear Sirs:

My concerns about a Commercial Airport at HSAFB are:

1) Pollution - of our National Parks.  
noise  
fuel gases, air  
traffic - Trucks etc. to  
disperse the cargos

2) Danger of A Crash - With so many flights that will eventually be coming into the airport on a daily basis, I fear for our families and homes.

I recognize the fact that jobs are needed in this part of So. Florida but I feel there must be a better plan than a Commercial Airport. The folks here who are really need better schools, job training, better housing - An airport isn't

000260

going to solve these problems. There are many retirees here and many of us will not stay if an airport is developed. We do add an appreciable amount of monies to the economy in Homestead.

Please consider these points in making your decision -

Mary Clausen  
2636 S.E. 20th Ct.  
Homestead, Fla.  
33035

Henry Dymowa  
850 Wilford Dr, Apt W1  
Hollywood, FL 33021 01/30/2000

U.S. Air Force  
Please - No Commercial Airport at Homestead AFB.  
Consider the adverse effects to near 200 of the Nation's most magnificent National Parks, the Everglades and Biscayne. Consider the noise, the tremendous pollution, and how they can displace the thousands of visitors, as well as the declining bird population.  
Has an environmental impact study been done? What does it conclude? Please get good satellite-based studies in your consideration of environmental effects.  
-Circulate  
Henry Dymowa



**DARIA TCHAKARIAN**  
1621 NW 13th Avenue  
Homestead, FL 33030-2921  
305-246-5632

000264

February 2, 2000

U.S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/MEX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22290-2862

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today about the proposed re-development of the former Homestead Air Force Base.

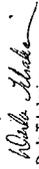
As a twenty year resident, I am appalled to a commercial airport being developed at the former Air Base site. I moved to Homestead because it was a quiet farming community, and because I enjoy waking up in the morning to the sound of songbirds. If a commercial airport were to be developed on this site, the beauty and tranquility of Homestead and south Miami-Dade county would forever be negatively impacted.

We, the people, were never given a voice in the "give-away" deal the county made to the politically connected HAVDI group. This no-bid deal stunk from the get-go, and still does. The only people who really support this, are those who will profit from it financially. As a resident of Homestead, I have never once received a questionnaire/opinion poll, asking how I would like to see the Airbase property used. Since a proposed one plane a minute will be flying over my house, I think it is only fair that my voice be heard.

I am in favor of the mixed-use proposal which would include an office park, golf course and aquarium attraction. These uses would be more harmonious to the area and also the existing green space in the proposed site.

Miami-Dade county is famous for two things: it is grossly lacking greenspace and tree canopy, and it also has probably the most mismanaged airport in the country. We don't need another airport. We need clean air, tranquility, and greenspace.

Sincerely,

  
Darla Tchakaran

a1100 000265

801 ALUWISTON DA.  
APT 305  
MIAMI, FL 33139  
  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. MOORE ST.  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, Va 22209-2809

To Whom it May Concern:

I oppose a commercial airport use of the former Homestead airbase. The environmental impact will be damaging to both Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. No re-vegetation made by the Air Force for environmental protection will protect the area from commercial development if the airport in the local use. Hotels, businesses and parking lots will be built.

I enjoy walking in the Everglades. The airbase is beautiful. Don't permit this to be spoiled by constant jet traffic.  
Sincerely Howard Lubel

**Bruce Lecuru**  
9839 SW 222 Terrace  
Miami, FL 33190

000265

February 2, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/MEX  
1700 N. Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2809

Dear Air Force Decision Makers:

I am **VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED** to the plan to turn the Homestead Airforce Reserve Base into a commercial airport.

I bought a house in unincorporated South Dade County after Hurricane Andrew because the area was quiet, safe, and beautiful. The quality of life was much better than the area surrounding the airport. Turning a commercial airport at the old base would bring thousands of flights over residential areas, noise, and air pollution to a very quiet neighborhood. Please do not allow this area to resemble the area that now surrounds Miami International Airport. The impact on the Biscayne National Park and the Everglades National Park also make this proposal too risky and environmentally unsound.

I fully support the proposed alternative land swap for old gas rights owned by Collier County. Collier County already financially helps producing golf course resort and business centers is a "win-win" for everyone involved!

Sincerely,

  
Bruce Lecuru

A Concerned Taxpayer and Voting Citizen

Homestead SEIS, AFB CAEX 1-31-00  
1700 N. Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209, 2802

Bretthorn,

As a resident of Homestead I & my family are affected as a Cayo Airport in our backyard. We moved to this quiet, farming town for that reason. Also the beautiful birds & wildlife of Biscayne please do not ruin our city with a runway airport. There are other alternatives!

Sincerely

M. + Tho Martin Baumel  
600 SE 25 Lane  
Homestead, FL 33053

000267



000271

February 2, 2000

TO: Homestead, S.E.I.S.  
ASBCA/EX  
7200 Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

FROM: Mrs. Jane Stocks  
102 N.E. 108 St.  
Miami Shores, FL 33161

Remembering how South Dade was over 50 years ago, I think we should look to containing what is left of the natural beauty we have here, rather than to infringe on it with a commercial airport.

While this type of growth may be needed, it may also kill that same area by adversely affecting the attributes that make this place so very lovely. I oppose extensive commercialization of the former Homestead Airforce Base. I think a more environment friendly growth can bring jobs, money, and assistance to South Dade.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Very truly yours,

*Jane Stocks*

000276

February 1, 2000

Homestead SEIS AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore St.  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

To Whom it May Concern:

We agree with your environmental impact statement concluding that a proposed airport in Homestead, Florida would have a devastating effect on the adjacent Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. We strongly agree that the price of destroying this valuable treasure is far too great, and NO AIRPORT should be allowed. Please forward this letter to whoever the appropriate decision making authorities are to demonstrate that the concern for this area of the country to great, not just to those in the south Florida area, but to people all over the U.S.

Thank you for protecting our land, sea, and wildlife national treasures just as much as our citizens.

Sincerely,

*Robert Dee Leggett*  
Robert and Dee Leggett  
PO Box 650  
Great Falls, VA 22066

000277

February 1, 2000

Homestead SEIS, AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore St.  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Air Force:

I am writing to urge you to halt the planning of an airport in Homestead Florida. The draft environmental impact statement conducted by the U.S. Air Force concluded that the airport would have devastating effects on the Everglades and Biscayne National Park.

Please preserve the integrity of some of our nation's most valued national treasures. Stop the development of this airport on the doorsteps of our national parks!

Sincerely,

*Michael Risden*  
Michael Risden  
2100 Mecca Rd.  
Austin, TX 78733

000278

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I vehemently oppose Homestead Air Force Base being turned over to Mecklenburg County to be developed as a commercial airport. The noise pollution would be bad enough for a residential area, however, with our canal reefs already showing signs of distress, endangered key deer demanding attention in the water, etc. the impact would be detrimental.*

*I have lived in the vicinity of Hartsfield International and I know how it deteriorates property values as well as quality of life.*

*Please treat this case to the Callier-Hoover Committee or leave it as a reservation.*

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUÉ AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Evelyn + Murray Moss  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 444 N.W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33020

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Providing this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicarán sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información se considerará como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 1, 2000 or:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 or:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/TIEMPO: FEB 2, 2000  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
1. SEPARATE SERVICES FOR COMMERCIAL USES...  
2. No hearings...  
3. Your Executive Comments about the Airport/Moore Base...

NAME/NOMBRE: Suzanne S. Apperly  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 11200 Homestead Lane  
CITY/CUIDAD: Homestead (Fla.)  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL, ESTADO: FLA. 33434  
Se publica en el SEIS FINAL...  
Fecha de entrega esta forma es ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000:

Homestead SEIS  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

0002680  
Joseph Compel Jr.  
6751 S.W. 38 St.  
Miami, FL 33155-3726  
(305)667-5284 Phone & Fax  
February 1, 2000  
Homestead SEIS, AFRCA/VEK  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209-2802

To Whom It May Concern:  
I oppose the plan to convert portions of the Homestead Air Force Base to a commercial airport...  
Although the Air Force had daily landings and take offs from Homestead during the base's life, the number was far fewer than will occur with a commercial airport...  
As a lifelong Floridian, I have witnessed countless well-run by public officials of natural groves and parks...  
Sincerely,  
Joseph Compel Jr.

1 - 4 882-59-596 FAX 58001-5800-5800000 14 FEB 00 12:11:6 PM

RIGHT TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY ACCESS AT THE PLANNING...  
# THE THREAT OF "TRYING YOU UP IN COURT" AS RELATES TO THE AIRPORT...  
6. THE MOST APPROPRIATE CITIZENRY HAVE BEEN TOO RARELY PROSECUTED BY DELAYING THE COUNTY'S RIGHT TO ENJOY AIRPORTS...  
-30-  
-30-

5. THE CITIZENRY (REPRESENTED BY THE COUNTY OR SOME OTHER ACCEPTABLE MUNICIPAL BODY) ARE ENTITLED TO THIS LAND.

6. THE MOST APPROPRIATE CITIZENRY HAVE BEEN TOO RARELY PROSECUTED BY DELAYING THE COUNTY'S RIGHT TO ENJOY AIRPORTS...  
-30-  
-30-

0002684

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion  
DATE/TIEMPO: 02-03-00  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
ED LA NOCHE DE AYER YO ASISTI A LA REUNION...  
NAME/NOMBRE: Hilda Bet Orellana  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 8802 Old Trail St  
CITY/CUIDAD: Coral Gables FL 33055

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*  
NAME/NOMBRE: Hilda Bet Orellana  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 8802 Old Trail St  
CITY/CUIDAD: Coral Gables FL 33055  
Comments will be published in the Final SEIS...  
Se publican los comentarios en el SEIS FINAL...  
Fecha de entrega esta forma es ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

Darlene Melcon 000285  
 9770 S W 159 St  
 Miami, Fl. 33157  
 03 Feb. 2000

U. S. Air Force  
 Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 North Moore St.  
 Suite 2300  
 Arlington, Va  
 22209-2802

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be assured that most of us do NOT want the old Homestead AFB changed into a commercial airport. This would have an extremely negative impact on the two National Parks: Everglades and Biscayne. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary would also be affected. There are at least two other proposals on the table that would be more positive. These involve mixed commercial and residential use, both bringing jobs to the area, which is what everyone wants...but not at the cost of ruining two of our National treasures. A commercial airport is a far cry from the old AFB. There is so little "natural Florida" left these days, especially in South Florida. Please help us "little people" and not the huge developers...Many thanks for your time and help...

  
 Darlene Melcon

Joel B. McEachern - Natural Light Photography  
 P.O. Box 182 - Mt. Dora, FL 32756-0182  
 e-mail: jbmceachern@yahoo.com  
 (800) 642-3312

000286

February 3, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 N. Moore Street  
 Suite 2300  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2300

Re: The Undevelopment of the Redevelopment of Homestead Air Force Base

To Whom This Concerns:

I am writing to express my concern over the negative impacts the proposed redevelopment of Homestead Air Force Base will have upon the adjoining national parks, offering instead that it be undeveloped completely and made part of the national park system in the best case or allowed to be mixed use in the worst.

In a culture of rapid development, I realize it is heresy to proffer any position that does not support the short-term economic goals inherent in the job-creationists culture in which we live. But the hard truth is, the American people already have a huge investment in the acquisition, development and maintenance of these national parks and associated refuges--an investment far greater than the economic benefits pitched by current development interests whose grand claims of public benefit are but the latest chapter in the private enrichment of a select and very connected few.

And at the heart of our investment is the preservation of the very qualities which make these parks work: their remarkable stillness, vastness and variety, traits most often associated with the great parks of the west. These qualities were described in the Everglades National Park's original survey, written by Daniel B. Beard in 1938 who later became the park's first superintendent.

As a nature photographer for the past fifteen years, I came to know these qualities well. And though my work has taken me away from these remarkable places, season after season, I rose hours before dawn in hopes of capturing them. Lacking monument and range, the very essence of south Florida's wild and open places--federal, state or municipal--depends upon their absolute protection and preservation.

February 3, 2000  
 Joel B. McEachern  
 Page two

Finally, it is easy to argue 'development' when the land isn't and will never be a place of heart, magic or memory. Florida's wild places have long suffered at the hands of strangers and sycophant-statesmen--people whose absence of attachment to its wild and open spaces simplified their destruction. This time, say no. Undevelop the redevelopment of Homestead Air Force Base and let the quiet at last begin.

Sincerely,

  
 Joel B. McEachern

16373 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Pembroke Pines, FL 33028

000287

February 3, 2000

U. S. Airforce  
 Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA / EX  
 1700 North Moore St  
 Suite 2300  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to voice my concern and opposition to the redevelopment of Homestead Air Force Base in south Florida as a commercial airport.

The proximity of this property to our two National Parks (Biscayne and Everglades) requires very special consideration to what type of development takes place.

Both National Parks are under severe pressure already from many angles such as coastal development and the now famous and expensive fresh water drainage program. What would undoubtedly become a major commercial airport at that site, would certainly damage the area's already fragile environment as well as negatively impact the experience area residents and visitors have in our parks.

The proposed alternative plans for development of this site would provide the much-needed jobs and economic stimulus while having much less impact on the sensitive environment.

I urge you to promote and support these alternative plans. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
  
 Jorge de la Vega

COMMENTS

Cornie Miller  
2000 N. Moore St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32307  
Home Phone (904) 832-2056  
Email: cornie@afbc.com

Feb. 4, 2000

000259

U.S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBC A/FX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

SEIS:

I wish to protest the idea of a commercial airport in Homestead, Florida.

This proposed airport is within a few miles of Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The idea is very, very foolish. There are two alternatives that make more sense for the environment and will promote jobs.

Sincerely,

*Cornie Miller*

Cornie Miller

2-1-00

*Air Force  
Homestead SEIS, AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St, Ste. 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209*

*Dear Sir,  
I believe that the proposed airport in Homestead Florida would have a devastating effect on adjacent Everglades & Biscayne National Parks. There would be pipelines, noise, seven tons of toxic air pollutants every day, and lead and other hazardous chemicals would wash into Biscayne Bay. Please expose this airport! I thank you for your consideration. Miane, N. Hwy 90, Oklawaha 32044 Century Park E 3900  
Doc Coughlin CA 90067*

000253

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input.  
Gracias por su participacion.

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

DATE/FECHA: Feb. 1, 2000

*I am very opposed to a commercial, large  
scale airport in this area. It would  
cause great ecological damage and destroy  
the tourism. There is an alternative  
land use plan that would allow being able  
to fly over but without destroying the  
environment. Please do not allow this  
local vicinity to prevail. Thank you.*

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\* CONTINUA AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO \*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Carole Mackintosh*  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *113 Lakeside Ln*  
CITY/CIUDAD: *Key Largo, FL 33037*  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Printing this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicara sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su direccion personal si no desea que esta sea publicada en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta informacion es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:

Favor de entregar esta forma o ENTUARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209  
FAX: 703-696-5828

000297

February 3, 2000  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Air Force Representative:

I have recently learned of the Air Force's plan to transfer the former Homestead Air Reserve Base to Dade County for development into a major international airport. I would like to express my strong opposition to this plan.

As a recent visitor to the Everglades National Park, I came to understand and appreciate an invaluable natural treasure. It was stressed by all the Park's maintainers that this is a fragile ecosystem. I felt pride that my government would protect such an ecosystem for the future well-being of its citizenry and our country's natural legacy.

There is no doubt that airport development would severely compromise this fragile ecosystem and the visitor experience. These concerns are supported by the Air Force's recently completed SEIS and other studies.

There are alternatives to the airport which would have significantly less harmful effects on the environment and encourage you to consider these and abandon the notion of potential airport development.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

*Carole Mackintosh*  
Carole M. Siskette  
4279 Millpond Dr. NE  
Rockford, MI 49341

cc: Rep. Vernon Ehlers  
Sen. Scott Alexander  
Sen. Carl Levin

000299

President William J. Clinton  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

U.S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209 2802

February 3, 2000  
Dear Mr. President,

I am against the idea of an airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base because it will destroy the only undeveloped natural area near my city. At a time when it is obvious to everyone that we need to restore our echo system it is unwise to build an airport on the land between two national parks. I use these areas and the peace and quiet cannot be traded for jobs.

Sincerely,

Robert Larson  
6831 SW 69 TR  
South Miami, FL 33143

000300

President William J. Clinton  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

U.S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209 2802

February 3, 2000  
Dear Mr. President,

I am against the idea of an airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base because it will destroy the only undeveloped natural area near my city. At a time when it is obvious to everyone that we need to restore our echo system it is unwise to build an airport on the land between two national parks. I use these areas and they are important to me.

Sincerely,

Martin S. Buel  
6831 SW 69 TR  
South Miami, FL

000301

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb 7, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am strongly opposing the proposal of a plan to build an airport at Homestead's Military Airbase. I have the following reasons:

- The Everglades and the Biscayne National Park are in the direct neighborhood of the planned airport. The negative impact on all living species and the plants would be unforgivable and irreversible.
- South Florida's economical well being is very dependant on its two National Parks.
- At this moment enormous efforts are on the way to reverse the water flow back into the Everglades. This project will hopefully succeed in restoring some of the natural habitat. An airport would work completely detrimental to such undertaking and expenses.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* CONTINÚE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO \*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Gisela Haynes  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 84051 Barboursa Ave  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33133-6628

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8928

000302

February 2, 2000

This concerns all citizens,  
My family and friends  
urge that, in order to protect Everglades  
National Park & Biscayne Nat'l Parks, you  
DONOT, DO NOT convey the Homestead  
Airbase Base to Commercial aviation or  
other port uses. Such uses will  
cause unacceptable, permanent  
impacts to two of Americas treasured  
national parks as well as the Florida  
Key National Marine Sanctuary.  
Let the Everglades LIVE!

Sincerely,  
D. Balkan

Tower House #503  
5600 Collins Avenue  
Miami Beach, FL 33140



000307

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: 2/19/02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

If the objective of discussion is to inform themselves the state that it is better, and not to try and influence state policy, the state will not be involved in the entire thing. Also, we do not have a representative to be involved in the entire thing. Also, we do not have a representative to be involved in the entire thing. Also, we do not have a representative to be involved in the entire thing.

The SEIS should allow for the fact that the location of the facilities would be determined by the state, not by the private sector. The state should also be involved in the entire thing. Also, we do not have a representative to be involved in the entire thing.

NAME: Mr. [unclear]  
ADDRESS: [unclear]  
CITY/STATE: [unclear]

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Frying fish information will be considered comment to publish it.

Homestead SEIS  
1700 N. Neece St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-596-8828

is agriculture. We know our farmers and they own fruits and vegetables. If there was a freight report here, I am sure we would have a lot of support and end up buying our produce from growers - not great for our country, I believe our country should grow most if not all of our own food. But only makes sense if power from our food we put in our tanks is gone. I have to also a big industry in community plants which are shipped all over the world.

Think of it once we get this special area for the commerce it will be gone forever. It would be our perfect way of living wanted in good. Please let me see this report - I beg you, please back the Ocala Resources Company proposal.

Shirley,  
Mrs. Alice Brown  
8090 SE 20th Ave  
Homestead, FL 33033  
305-230-0292

000305

February 2000

U.S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFB/CA/EX  
1700 North Neece St. - Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

I am writing this letter to tell you of my concern about the proposal of a pig farm just west of the former Homestead Air Base. It is inconceivable that this is ever being considered for this area. We have 2 National Parks in South Gate County - the Sycamore and Bacoagum National Parks. We have many many thousands come to this area for their parks and with recreation in the area and to make the area write up north. I am sure that if this was a pig farm airport we to spread the house and give it out over our they would go elsewhere. I understand an airplane would be taking off every 5 minutes, the noise would be unbearable. The other industries in this area

000309

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: 2-2-02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

We have residents here in the Homestead area. We would be taking jobs. I believe the state should be involved in the entire thing. Also, we do not have a representative to be involved in the entire thing.

NAME: RANDY LODET & MARIE C. LODET  
ADDRESS: 1588 NW 8 AVE  
CITY/STATE: HOUSTON, TX 77030

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Frying fish information will be considered comment to publish it.

Homestead SEIS  
1700 N. Neece St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-596-8828

over

**COMMENTS**

PS: AIRCRAFT DOES NOT POLLUTE WATER AND WE DON'T THINK KILLS WILD LIFE OR THERE WONT BE ANY WILDLIFE IN THE EVERGLADES WITH SO MANY AIRPLANES FLYING OVER THE GLADES.

000310

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb. 3, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I have lived in Homestead all of my life (64 yrs) and remember when the forest to the east of Homestead became an Air Base. That Air Base (Airport) has co-existed with the environment and the local inhabitants for 58 yrs without destroying either. I sincerely believe that since the Everglades Nat'l Park came into being years after the AIRBASE and The Biscayne Nat'l Monument many many years later, their opposition to an Airport on the HAFB property is not valid. The two can co-exist. Also the HAFB property must remain in the public domain and not be turned over to the Collier Family / Hoover Group for any reason. It must either remain with the Federal Govt or be returned to the citizens of Dade County. It is my hope that the facility can become the force that will once again be an asset for the economy of the Homestead area. With proper management we can have an airport and the wonderful environment my family found when they arrived here in early 1900.  
Please keep HAFB property owned by the public!

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO \*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Mary Lou Snider  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 948 N.W. 9 St.  
CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33020-429

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828



000311

February 2, 2000

Homestead Draft SEIS  
AFBCA/PA  
1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Sirs:

Please find enclosed my written comments and thoughts regarding the proposed transfer of the properties of the former Homestead Air Force Base to be utilized as a commercial airport.

You will note from this communiqué that I am in favor of the proposal and describe therein the reasons for my decision.

If you would like further comments, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you. I can be reached during normal business hours at the number below.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Johnson  
Senior Executive Vice President

ESJ/lt

Enclosure

Post Office Box 390400, Homestead, Florida 33090-0400  
28801 S.W. 157th Avenue, Homestead, FL 33033 • 305-245-2211 • http://www.communitybankfl.com

My name is Eric Johnson:

A local Resident and business person in this community

I'm married with three children, the "Homestead Air Reserve Base" is 1.5 miles from my home, work, church and where my children play. An outgoing President Bush along with an incoming President Clinton represented to this community that, the then, Homestead Air Force Base reuse plan was going to be utilized as a model for "Base reuse" in our country.

Good intentions, yes

But unfortunately for our community, this reuse has yet to become a reality. The prior reuse study's and the current SEIS (The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement) continue to support what individuals and businesses of this community have stated all along...that the single greatest long term use of the current "Homestead Air Reserve Base" in contribution of quality and quantity of long-term job growth to the Homestead and Greater Homestead area will be the Base reuse as a commercial airport.

Other proposals presented raise numerous questions; but the commercial airport initiative is one based not only on sound study data, but a proven track record from a historical setting. Commercial airport data is strongly based on proven trends and multipliers, whereas the other proposals are founded on pro formas without proven historical multipliers. Noise concerns are addressed in the study from a current stand, but additional considerations can be entertained that as additional modifications

1201, 1000

000312

and new design features; including subsizing new fleets, are made then noise calculations utilized in the study only further drop.

Obviously a primary issue to the local community is economic development. As an individual involved in local business, civic organizations and economic development, I can not begin to emphasize enough the commercial airport use as filling long term objectives of our community. Illustrated in the study's data are solid job counts and external impacts which complement our Empowerment and Enterprise designations. These jobs will raise the median income level of our area significantly as other business concerns seek new headquarters here and development on and off the commercial airport begins.

The past eight years have devastated our "core" base of income our above designations only validate this. Over the past eight years our area has not experienced the joys of the nations economic prosperity as other community's have. Directly to the south the Florida Keys continues to enjoy year after year of record growth in tourism, but yet 30 miles to the north we experience negative growth numbers consecutively each year. As you view our community from a numerical and philosophical perspective you can only conclude that the most solid approach to long term economic development, complementing quality job growth, is granting use as a commercial airport.

Thank You

We moved from Kendall to Homestead because of the peaceful surroundings. We wanted to get away from all the chaos and traffic. We love it here. Our children love going to Biscayne National Park and just fish and relax there, please, please do not take that joy away from us. We do not need a commercial airport next to two of the most beautiful National parks there are. There are many other alternatives. but please leave nature along. If we keep destroying there will be nothing left.

The Lozada family



431 N.E 135th  
Homestead, FL 33030

**Judy F. Tchakarian**

1621 NW 13th Avenue  
Homestead, FL 33030-2921  
305-248-5632

000313

February 2, 2000

U.S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX -  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today about the proposed re-development of the former Homestead Air Force Base.

As a twenty year resident, I am *opposed* to a commercial airport being developed at the former Air Base site. I moved my family to Homestead because it was a quiet rural community, and because I enjoy the safe feeling a small rural community brings. If a commercial airport were to be developed on this site, the safety and quiet of Homestead would forever ruined.

We, the people, were never given a voice in the "give-away" deal the county made to the politically connected HADDI group. This no-bid deal stunk from the get-go, and still does. The only people who really support this, are those who will profit from it financially. As a resident of Homestead, I have never once received a questionnaire/ opinion poll asking how I would like to see the Airbase property used. Since a proposed one plane a minute will be flying over my house, I think it is only fair that my voice be heard.

I am *in favor* of the mixed-use proposal which would include an office park, golf courses and aquarium attraction. These uses would be more harmonious to the area and also the existing green space in the proposed site.

Please help preserve our quiet, rural community.

Sincerely,



Judy F. Tchakarian

Dewey E. Steele  
22320 SW 256 St.  
Homestead, FL 33031  
3 February 2000

000314

To Whom it may concern:

Regarding the proposed development of the former Homestead Air Force Base, my wife and I would like to comment.

We grow tropical fruit in the area and are committed to keeping our community rural and agricultural. This is why we have lived here for the past 20 years.

It may interest you to know that the Florida Everglades is one of the U.S.'s top ten Most Threatened Farming Areas! Source: American Farmland Trust.

We enjoy the precious natural setting that Biscayne National and Everglades Parks provide. We ask that you think about what it would be like to have a major airport nearby with it's noise and other types of pollution. An airport in this area threatens agriculture by paving the way for industrialization and urban sprawl and would devour available farmland. Would you want that within your community?

The only logical conclusion to this matter is to limit air operations to what they are now and explore other options similar to the Collier/Hoover plan.

In closing, we are very much opposed to the commercial airport plan and will support all efforts to block it.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Dewey E. Steele

COMMENTS

000315

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participación  
DATE/FECHA: February 3, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am a 50 yr. old aquaculturist. I am a biologist by profession and I am the past president and a founder of the South Florida Aquaculture Association. I have served five years on the Dade County Advisory Committee to the Extension Service (one year as chairperson.) I have served four yrs. on the Marine Interest Advisory Committee for Dade County.

I have donated thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours to the Miami MetroZoo since it opened. I also donated thousands of dollars in fish to the lakes at MetroZoo. I have been a coach for the Khoury League for five seasons. I have been in business for 28 years and currently my business employs two biologists, one full-time office manager, one part-time office manager and two aquatic technicians.

My farm is also one of 2 farms in Florida which has worked directly with Senator Graham on state & federal aquaculture's status, licensing, and permit-issuing. Basically, I have gone many extra miles to try and set examples for my children, be a good neighbor and help my industry. I consider myself a good citizen.

There was a study done by Dames and Moore which was funded by Dade County & finalized in 1995 with recommendations of an additional airport facility being located in Opa Locka. It is obvious that for environmental reasons, (over) CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE

CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO

NAME/NOMBRE: Paul Radice  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION:  
CITY/CIUDAD:  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

the Homestead AirForce Base is not a suitable location and is contrary to the only existing two industries in Dade: Agriculture and Tourism.

This is a green-belt area which currently supplies the U.S. with winter fruits and vegetables. This area also attracts visitors from all over Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties for weekend excursions of picking or buying fresh fruits and vegetables from farms which are eager and happy to accommodate their customers. All of the current agri-business will be forced out one-by-one due to 1.) over-urbanization and 2.) pollution.

should the Homestead Air Force Base be converted to an airport. This is not a Jobs vs. environment issue which our paid public officials seem to be leaning heavy on. We do have excellent alternative plans (Thank God) which will help promote both of the two industries in South Dade: Tourism and Agriculture.

Kindly turn down the airport idea for the sake of the majority of our neighbors. In conclusion, on this highly heated issue, I do not understand why a referendum was not held. This is truly a case where the will of the people is being ignored.

000316

Feb 2 2000  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St  
Arlington, Va. 22209-2802

Gentlemen:-  
We are troubling times ahead. While the state of Florida & the Fed are spending millions of dollars to reclaim the Everglades you seem to be ready to help destroy it & a few other precious lands; namely, the Rosemary National Park & the Fla. Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

HABDI's full size commercial airport must not be built. We will list a few reasons why:

1. The noise from these constant flights will destroy the nesting habits of our birds. It probably will have a bad effect on other animals as well. Constant noise makes for a stressful environment. There is also the danger of our birds flying into these jets causing great harm to both bird, plane & even passengers.
2. We worry about the erosion - more. Due to its height (See above) and spill in the Bay would be disastrous. We also have a very rare living coral reef out in the Bay to protect. The fish provide a livelihood for many fishermen.
3. Population Expense: An airport this size needs support. The Everglades will be torn apart by

2

the repair shops, warehouses, etc that would certainly be built to support the airport. Just across the Hills, stores (Mack's?) homes that will impact the Everglades.

Nominatee needs jobs, that we can not deny. But the above jobs connect to the National Park. People are beginning to realize the worth of these places & the Everglades are unique. First the birds & the people will come.

HABDI deserves exclusive development right without due process. No competitive bidding. That please - Is this legal??

Please make a commitment to save our land - the future needs it & so do we now.

"TREAT THE EARTH WELL. IT WAS NOT GIVEN TO US BY OUR PARENTS BUT LENT TO US BY OUR CHILDREN"

KAREN PROVERA  
Thank you for "listening"  
Sincerely  
Karen Provera

C: SENATOR BOB GRAHAM  
MR & MRS RICHARD E VAZ  
2001 SW 24TH CT  
MIAMI FL 33150-3222  
WVVF

000317

To whom it may concern, 9/3/00  
 As 37 year resident, writing  
 residents of both So. Miami; Dade  
 Co.) and E. second home in Key  
 Largo (Fl. Keys), we used to go  
 for dinner stopping Homestead  
 Commercial Airport. We have  
 seen the incredible impact  
 the F-15's have had on  
 the birds and on Dade Co. We  
 still remember see lots of  
 the deaths of Key Biscayne  
 dump and piles of scrap on the  
 Ft. Straus. We support  
 alternative use. Please keep

*We enjoyed.  
 Thanking you in advance -*

*Sincerely, Deborah  
 Neustrange  
 224 Wild Rover Dr.  
 Key Largo, FL 33037  
 Phone: 305-852-1596*

*Miami  
 9991 S.W. 70 Ave.  
 Miami, FL 33152  
 Phone: 305-667-3083*

000318

2-2-00  
 I wish to express my  
 opposition to the  
 proposed airport in  
 Homestead, FL. The  
 negative impact on  
 Everglades N.P. - a unique  
 ecosystem - would be  
 devastating!

USAF  
 Homestead SEIS  
 AFBC ALEX  
 1700 N. Moore Street  
 Suite 2300  
 Arlington, VA  
 22209-3802

MAIL ROOM  
 THE AIR FORCE

000319

Feb. 9, 2000

Homestead, SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 N. Moore St.  
 Chantingon, Va. 22009  
 Dear Sirs:

I oppose the Air Force's plan  
 to transfer the former Homestead  
 Air Reserve Base to Dade County  
 for the development of a major  
 international airport. This air-  
 port could have a very adverse  
 impact on nearby Everglades and  
 Biscayne national parks. The  
 Air Force's own SEIS reveals this  
 to be the case!

The Air Force's own study shows  
 that alternatives to the airport,  
 such as mixed commercial and  
 residential uses, would be less  
 harmful. Please support this  
 alternative! Denote the airport!

*Sincerely,  
 Mr. Ruth Wisnander  
 622 Barbara  
 Davis, Ca. 95616*

COMMENTS

000320

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

DATE/FECHA: 02/04/00

*Over*  
*COMMENTS on other side*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Judith Marie Wilosore  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 10040 S.E. 5th Pl.  
CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33033

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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

Right now you are 231,000 flights annually, but next year maybe more. That's a lot of pollution. Also after Hurricane Andrew we lived in Miami Lakes, after 6 months we had to have both new cars roof tops painted from the airplanes flying into open locks air port. Then what's going to happen to the birds that get in the way of the aircraft, are they going to be threatened again to be shot? Not to say about the noise. The cost of getting cargo out of Homestead. All this looks good on paper and study, but not a reality.

000321

February 1, 2000  
Gentlemen:  
My husband and I own  
vacation property in the Florida  
Keys and feel strongly that  
your plan to establish a  
major commercial airport in  
Homestead is a mistake.  
There are other proposals that  
would provide jobs and a  
boost to the area without  
damaging the environment.  
Please do not proceed with  
an airport. Sincerely, Corde Hankins

000322

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/2/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*If you are going to have a "public" hearing please  
do not allow 2 1/2 hours of time for politicians  
to speak. The county had the chance at the beginning  
of the program to present its side. To allow all those  
politicians to speak while homeowners waited in vain  
was ridiculous. Most left including myself  
and the neighbors. I attended with disgust  
around 9:15*

*For the record I own a business (19 years)  
3/4 mile from the old west gate on 288 st.*

*I live a few blocks from the high school where  
the meeting was. I oppose the commercial airport  
for these reasons:*

*1. In the long term our quality of life and the rural  
atmosphere would disappear.  
I truly believe a few would make more the rest  
of us will be left with a mess.*

*2. Most importantly, the national parks are more  
important than the long term well being of...*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Diane Oakman  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 10901 SW 277 St  
CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33031

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1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828







000333

for employment on the December 1999 scale of 67 counties. We remain approximately 33% above the US rate of 4.1% unemployment. DEMOCRACY cannot truly exist without some economic parity and equal opportunity. The Sierra Club, The Tropical Audubon and other movements would deny a Community in need their right to have and hold well remunerated jobs with a future. This lamentably comes at a very inopportune time for our citizens, and specially for our Afro-American brothers and sisters of South Miami Dade County who have been guaranteed 23% of these progressive jobs and 23% of the stock ownership in this project by the developer. Their earnings were propitiously set off of scientific base but neither from a threat by the Calter family to divul the last one of Big Cypress in the Everglades for questionable grade, though probable petroleum deposits. Wonderful environmentalists these jobs. Breath your contract on etc. Their followers of course are the same people who destroyed the property rights of over 350 rural families in the 8.5 mm, the MacArthur Tribe of Indian rights, and the Everglades. Indeed accelerating it's demise. And destroying the restoration of the Everglades. Indeed killing South Miami Dade County farmers. When I was told I was a Noble Cowboy and Indian warrior. There was a variation of a thin address by a Noble Cowboy and Indian warrior. Looking Cowboy which were something. The "Red-Head Indian to a sinister glibly looking Cowboy which were something. All appear to do speak with forked tongue. Some in the Department of Agriculture, all appear to do so. Through the National Park Service and US FWS and Wildlife

The Calter/Hoover Plan alternative world of course create jobs. The majority of which would be the traditional job of serving in a civilian law maintenance personal, and richer sellers and takers. It would completely ignore Miami's participation to become the Gateway to the Americas and otherwise see chance to participate in globalization with meaning.

It would also cement the suspicions of many that the national government cannot even in one instance be trusted to keep it's word. The majority of residents of Miami-Dade County do not know what an attorney's retirement account is. Never mind a portfolio. Disregard executive and Mayor Ori Walker of Florida City to Mayor Steve Shiver of Homestead, and Mayor Ori Walker of Florida City. They know poverty. And love their constituents.

Respectfully,

*Victor M. Varela*  
Victor M. Varela

my my thing you charged since the 1950's and 60's but I still believe Homestead has a chance to remain the very special and new, unique atmosphere of all plan responsibly. I, my family, and my friends do not believe that putting an airport at H.A.F.B. is a responsible, environmentally sound, long range plan for this last of it's kind agricultural area. I also do not want to spend what are now very, special, Mangui, quiet days in Bucoyne National Park and Everglades National Park

2 Feb. 2000  
Myraune Biggar  
Homestead, FL  
33030

U.S. Ori Tovel  
Homestead SEIS

I attended the first "public comment" meeting regarding the transfer of Homestead Air Force Base, last night at South Dade High School. Unlike many in that auditorium, last night, I was born and raised in Homestead and grew up around in agricultural family. I am now in my mid-40s, married, and living in one of Dade County's bestest houses - one that is on the County's Historical Register.

As a child growing up here in Homestead I enjoyed all the benefits of a small, distinct, clean, rural, farming town, obviously

listening to the roar of jet engines, smelling their exhaust and visually intruding in our rural natural space.

It seems to me the Calter-Hoover plan is a plan that will provide my quality jobs, without turning Homestead into just another unproductive space gettable up by dirty, noisy, airport sprawl. Please do not give Ori Tovel the chance to turn about airport politicians to turn this National Park - it would be a horrible mistake that

0003314

①  
 Homestead SEIS  
 AT&T/EX  
 1700 N. Moore St.  
 SUITE 2300  
 ARLINGTON, VA.  
 22204-2804  
 2/3/88

To whom it may Concern,

I am a very concerned South Floridian, who would NOT LIKE TO SEE A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT BE BUILT IN THE OLD Homestead AIR FORCE BASE.

BESIDES ALL OBVIOUS REASONS WHY THIS IS A BAD IDEA - NOISE POLLUTION, EFFECT ON WILD ANIMALS IN THE 2 PISTONE NATIONWIDE PARKS (Biscayne + THE EVERGLADES) RIGHT NEXT DOOR, TRAFFIC CONGESTION, ETC, ... WHAT ABOUT THE FACT THAT A LARGE NUCLEAR ENERGY

would spent us all for decades to come!  
 As you know several environmental and homeowner groups are pressuring to tie the airport plan up in court for years to come - be realistic, if it is job next, that is "the big issue", it should be a much more than conversation by going ahead with the better-known by another environmentally responsible plan.  
 Please, again, say NO to the airport. Thank you,  
 Maryanne (Bigyan)

②  
 CENTER SITS JUST 5 MILES FROM THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED AIRPORT!!!  
 \* WHAT ABOUT THE RISKS OF AN AIRPLANE CRASH/CATASTROPHE HITTING THE LARGE NUCLEAR REACTORS AND THE STORAGE SITE OF THE TOXIC FUEL CYLINDERS?  
 THIS AIRPORT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA - WE DON'T WANT IT WE DON'T NEED IT!!!  
 PLEASE DON'T BUILD IT!!!

Sincerely,  
  
 MATTHEW M. CHRISTMAN  
 5431 TURKIN ST.  
 COOK COUNTY, FL 33516  
 305-740-0303



Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentario por Escrito  
 Public Hearing for Homestead Train SEIS - Acta para Publicar para el Bando del SEIS de Homestead  
 0003335

PLEASE PRINT/AVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
 I am distinctly displeased with the way HIED and a commercial airport at Sun and Sullivan should be to support the airport with a university with emphasis on environmental education, preserve species, and respect the environment. The University of Miami could have the campus and some other resources. That problem has the capacity to compare to some of the other international airports. These airports are built after land has been used for other things. The airport is directly in the place and the airport has the same problem. The airport is directly in the place and the airport has the same problem. The airport is directly in the place and the airport has the same problem.

NAME/PO BOX: Estelita Zasso And Bongo  
 ADDRESS/RESIDENCIA: 8710 503 185 782042  
 CITY/CORRAL: MIAMI FL 33152  
 STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA, CODIGO: FL 33152

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000336

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/21/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

WAS A 30 YEAR RESIDENT IN  
MIAMI A GUYER AND A FORMER  
AIRLINE EMPLOYEE BELIEVES THAT  
FACILITY WOULD BE TO CONVERT  
THE PLAZA TO SOMETHING LIKE  
DON'T KNOW VS WALKO BOWEN  
CERTAINLY TRUCKING HUB  
SEAL NO. DIVISION GREAT  
DOWN THERE WJO VARY HANEY  
DAWKY.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Rick Rubin  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 16075 SW 103 TER  
CITY/CIUDAD: MIAMI FL 33186  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33186

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Homestead SEIS  
AFRICA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

J.D. GORDON  
2450 S.W. 188 AVENUE  
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA 33011

000339

February 5, 2000

U.S. Air Force  
AFRICA/EX  
1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Re: Homestead Air Reserve Base

In the interests of the physical environment, agricultural concerns, and the well-being of all of our citizens in the South Dade community, we ask you to NOT develop Homestead Air Reserve Base into a commercial airport.

We are first time farmers in the Redland area and do not want the impact of the noise of planes on our land right (we lived with this in the Miami Beach area) on our quiet farming area. We have seen the black oil spills all over cars etc. near Miami International Airport. Think about what this would do to our farms, animals, people AND the two Parks!

There are jobs available now and no one filling them. If people on welfare, Farm Share etc. really interested in employment, they would be taking the jobs currently in the advertisements.

There are other uses to which the available land could be put at Homestead Air Reserve Base. Please do NOT allow it to be used as a commercial airport facility!

J.D. Gordon and LaVerna A. Gordon  
2450 S.W. 188 Avenue  
Homestead, Florida 33031

Telephone: 305-245-0814

000337

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-4-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

We are against having an airport  
at HAEB. I was born in Homestead  
unlike a lot of people speaking for an  
airport. They never will have to have it  
more in next to their peaceful rural  
neighborhood. I support the water park  
golf course plan. We visit the Everglades  
Marti park often and the tranquility  
is so refreshing. Do not ruin our city  
and parks!

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Donald Forsht and Lynn Bannister Enoch  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 11895 SW 298 ST  
CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead FL 33031  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33031

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Homestead SEIS  
AFRICA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828



000341

February 3, 2000

Homestead Draft SEIS  
AFRICA/EX  
1700 N. Moore Street, #2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed my written comments and thoughts regarding the proposed transfer of the properties of the former Homestead Air Force Base to be utilized as a commercial airport.

You will note from this communique that I am in favor of the proposal and describe therein the reasons for my decision.

If you would like further comments, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you. I can be reached during normal business hours at the number below.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Epling  
President

RELES  
Etc.

I'm Bob Epling, and I reside within five miles of Homestead Air Force Base in the Redlands, and work within two miles of the base.

My family moved to Homestead in 1955, thus we have experienced the best and the worst of South Miami-Dade County. Graduating from South Dade High School, I have raised my children in South Miami-Dade and now have grandchildren in Homestead. Our roots run deep—and I personally have perhaps traversed as many miles in South Miami-Dade as anyone who has testified.

With two graduate degrees, my company, with 200+ employees, is one of the larger employers in South Miami-Dade. Growing limes, I'm also involved in agriculture. Receiving many blessings, I have had the opportunity of civic stewardship in South Miami-Dade equal to or exceeding most.

I deeply care about this community, and would be hesitant to take any position potentially harmful to its environment or its people. Having fished in Flamingo and Biscayne Bay, I enjoy the benefits of both.

I have followed the BRAC issues on HAFB, read portions of the SEIS, consulted with people whom I respect, and listened to many who sought my advice. Although both proposals may have merit, it would seem that only redevelopment embracing aviation is the best solution for South Miami-Dade and Miami-Dade County.

My conclusion is based upon:

- ✓ Miami-Dade County must have a reliever airport in 5 to 10 years.
- ✓ HAFB offers unique advantages, i.e., runway, available land for infrastructure.
- ✓ Two Chambers of Commerce have determined through two independent surveys that 64% and 69% of our local citizens believe aviation economics makes sense.
- ✓ South Miami-Dade needs and deserves an economic catalyst.
- ✓ Common sense.

Thank you.

D. Carson  
625 S.E. 27th Lane  
Homestead, FL 33033  
February 4, 2000

000343

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St, Suite 2300  
Arlington, Va 22209-2809

Re: Homestead Air Force Base

Gentlemen:

It is my opinion that a new airport in Homestead will not be the answer to Homestead's economic problem. Even if the base could be restored to its former state, problems would be present that were not realized several years ago. We cannot eliminate all causes for pollution. We must live on this planet. However, any commercial venture such as an airport, to be constructed between national parks and so close to the endangered shoreline, reefs and keys is unthinkable.

The Collier-Hoover Plan is certainly a far better solution. There would still be jobs to be had, whether or not the new proposed community is gated. There will be gardeners and landscapers required to constantly maintain the grounds. The proposed small business park will require employees. If a hotel and golf course is constructed, there will be managers, housekeepers, clerks, groundskeepers, pro shops, possibly a restaurant and gift shops planned. All of these enterprises require personnel.

We are the gateway to the Keys. This is an ideal area for accessibility to Miami and the Keys. The boating, fishing, golfing, National Parks, proposed water park in Florida City make Homestead an ideal place to vacation, to retire or to work and raise a family.

We must not think only of the economics of our immediate area and the fast buck to be made by the \$15.00/hr. jobs alluded to should the airport be built. Our proximity to the endangered coral reefs, national parks, wildlife and ocean pollution require us to consider a more environmentally friendly solution.

Yours truly,

*D. Carson*  
D. Carson

000344

Rodney S Quinn, 2465 SE 7th Place, Homestead, FL 33033  
(305) 230 1964

TO: AFBCA/EX  
1700 N Moore St, Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209-2802

Feb 5, 00

FROM: Rodney S Quinn

SUBJECT: Draft SEIS concerning Homestead AFB, FL

The three main proposals i.e., Airport, Collier-Hoover, and Spaceport, all have strong points and weak points, but the Airport leads in weak assumptions and lack of factual basis. The study essentially ignores public costs versus private costs, government vs private management, and comparative environmental impact – all of which speak against a commercial airport.

Which of the proposals would require tax financing and support? What would be the impact on local taxes? Who will underwrite the initial costs and be responsible for future deficits? It is likely that a commercial airport would receive very low marks in any such comparison.

The degree of environmental impact can be argued, but an airport would clearly have the greatest. These three should be compared directly on a common scale.

Management and control of an airport would be under Miami-Dade County government, a future hardly comforting to those familiar with local political history.

Specifically:

1. There is insufficient comparison of the projected commercial and quasi-industrial development with similar facilities – such as Miami International Airport, a close at hand example. Certainly the quality of life surrounding MIA does not recommend itself to Homestead. Noise levels? Each flight over or near a school means loss of class attention. How many flights will it take to degrade instruction? How much pollution and noise from trucks and light industry? Storage and movement of degradable or hazardous materials? Crime and public safety?

2. Financial impact on local support structure is neither compared nor measured in sufficient detail. For the city of Homestead, for example, what are the costs

and who will finance them? Sewage and waste needs. Storm water runoff beyond the capacity of the small storage lake envisioned. Roads, schools, police, public transportation, hospital, relief agencies would require more tax monies than either of the other alternatives.

3. Aircraft noise and pollution levels projected in the study are based on speculation. Statements such as, "Newer aircraft engines are expected to have lower emissions" or, "Future aircraft are expected to be significantly quieter than existing aircraft" should not be the basis for a decision of a permanent and dramatic nature. Forty years ago the USAF "expected" to very shortly retire the B-52, but it still is our main strategic aircraft, now older than some of the people who help prepare the SEIS study. What happens to South Florida if SEIS "expectations" are similarly ephemeral?

4. A single runway airport would at best marginally profitable; attractive only to operators seeking the very lowest financial cost to themselves. Consequently, the plan drawn by the Miami-Dade County Commissioners called for a future additional runway. However, in response to vigorous environmental challenges in the past few days, the Miami-Dade mayor is already offering to change the County plan. Is a future change back likely? The egregious record of Dade government should discourage optimism.

5. The mantra of "jobs needed" seems to have been accepted as a "given" with little or no study. The dedication of this facility should not be made to satisfy a perceived economic situation without a proven and well studied need. There was insufficient effort to categorize the types of jobs provided or to measure the labor pool in need of and available for such jobs. A large part of the Homestead area labor population, for example, is seasonal agricultural workers. Some other jobless are unwilling or unable to take employment. How many will need training and who will provide such training? Once firm figures are in hand, might not either Collier or Spaceport adequately satisfy job needs?

6. Future adaptability of the various proposals. Any plan should provide some flexibility for unforeseen future changes in demographics, climate, economics, or national and state objectives. A commercial airport appears to be an irreversible reconfiguration, setting the facility and surrounding area into cement. It is the least flexible of the three proposals by a considerable margin.

Respectfully,

*Rodney S Quinn*  
Rodney S Quinn, Lt Col USAF (Ret)

COMMENTS

FORM 2 00 3202 0003747 1

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentar por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

DATE/FECHA: 2-08-00

I AM ALL FOR THE HOMESTEAD AIRPORT  
INTO AN AIRPORT COMMERCIAL CENTER  
TO STOP THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT  
AND TO GET CASE A DU RECONSTRUCTION

NAME/HOMBRE: FERNANDO POINTEZ  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 2801 180 53 ST  
CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI-FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33166

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Please hand this form to MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Homestead SEIS  
ABCA/VA, Suite 2300  
1700 N. Moore St., Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000351

Fred Rhodes  
151 N 13 Street  
Homestead, FL 33030  
February 9, 2000

FAX TO: (703) 693-8828

Homestead SEIS  
1700 N. Moore Street, Ste. 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I was born and reared in Homestead, Florida, am 74 years of age, a businessman, and a former Mayor and Councilman in Homestead for 17 years. I have been in the area for many years and I haven't seen that much difference in the economy with or without the Base.  
You are being flooded with letters and talk about the need for the development of the Base by positioning and building it all by the Latin Builders of Dade County who want to build and manage the facility. All we have have an air to ground and a wallet wanting to be filled.  
The Miami Airport should have gone Austin. Texas did for and received the property and moved quickly to convert the facility into a beautiful, unovercrowded Austin municipal airport in less than two years.

Everyone in Dade County will live to be sorry if you allow the Miami connection to build this facility.

Sincerely,  
Fred Rhodes

FORM 2 00 3202 0003148

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentar por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

DATE/FECHA: February 8, 2000

I am concerned about the impact of the airport on the surrounding area. I am a resident of the area and I am concerned about the impact of the airport on the surrounding area. I am a resident of the area and I am concerned about the impact of the airport on the surrounding area.

NAME/HOMBRE: Lois H. McClure  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 19 E. Saablas Point Dr.  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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FAX: 703-696-8828

000302

February 9, 1999  
To: U.S. Air Force ABCA  
Re: 118 Ave. - Silver Spring, MD

The intent of my concern:

I imagine you to find a quiet way to develop the Air Force Base in Silver Spring, FL. The tri-county area has on South Florida has 5 airports situated in cargo planes and jets. That is enough. At least one portion of our community should be protected from noise and jet exhaust. It could work what my idea is can experience a piece of it. I'd like to have a fishing and camping area from the bottom of the area of constant air traffic. Thank you for the info on 118 Ave. St. S. Miami, FL. 33143

February 6, 2000  
TO: AFDC/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

000353

From: Paul J. Mulhern  
22540 SW 177 Avenue  
Goulds, Florida 33170  
(305)247-6572  
Toll Free (877)247-6572  
Fax (305) 247-6170  
E Mail info@groveinn.com

RE: HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE

Dear Sirs:

I'm thankful that I received an opportunity to speak in person to your distinguished panel. I became quite emotional and probably neglected to state several points you may find of interest.

Currently 1.5 million visitors pass by our South Dade communities to visit the Florida Everglades. This information was reported to the cities, county, and the chamber of commerce on numerous occasions in public and committee meetings. When the question of economic viability is constantly looming, the "powers that be" seem to ignore tourism, the number one economic generator in the entire state and Miami Dade County.

I have served on several committees through the chamber, Homestead Main Street, Tropical Everglades Visitors Association and am on the board of The Redland Tropical Gardens and Botanical Foundation. I'm also a member of the Goulds Chamber of Ministers and many other community organizations. Through much community pressure the Tropical Everglades Visitors association just started to advertise on the World Wide Web several months ago <http://www.tropiceverglades.com>. Also the Redland Tropical gardens has a new page describing the Redland Historic Agriculture district <http://www.theredland.com>. The response has been tremendous. All eco/agri tourism was being captured by Naples. European visitors think the Everglades are located in Naples. Also the visitors and convention Bureau cut all funding to the Tropical Everglades Visitors Center just when they found a director with "World Class Marketing Experience". The Chamber works against T.E.V.A. instead of assisting.

It poses a very interesting scenario that the past chairmen of the Chamber were:  
Mayor Steve Shiver  
Julie Romero- husband is the vice president of FIABID  
David Payton- First national Bank  
Chair Elect- Tom Weller of Weller and Losner First National Bank Chairman's son.  
Business and Industry Chair- Mariene Porter Vice President Community Bank Mother of Councilman Jeff Porter  
Political Affairs Chair- Katy Olsen- a former bar maid who runs an illegal 3 unit bed and breakfast

Last year Katy was opposed to the Airport and very vocal about it. Representative for south Miami Dade on the Tourist Development Council- Kim Sova former C.E.O. of the Chamber of Commerce. Currently Kim is the sales director for Thunder Country radio station. The T.D.C. has refused to appoint anyone else from the area.

It's also interesting that Steve Losner (First National Bank Chairman's Son) past president of Main Street, wrote to the state to STOP a grant for the restoration of the Seminole Theater (located on main street).

The Chamber Goals Conference had a resounding tone of "Get those Environmental Terrorists!!" Also "What has Everglades National Park ever done for us?" Members of the community invited to participate (mostly teachers) walked out of the meetings. Isn't it strange that a Farm Bureau is fighting so vehemently for a commercial airport that will impact agriculture negatively. They have spent much more energy, time, and money on the airport rather than finding new marketing strategies for agricultural products. They claim that the farmers cannot farm without land value. Isn't it interesting that they ignore the horticulture industry that has been an economic boom for the area. Tropical Horticulture land is much more profitable as agriculture land. Tropical horticulture has become Miami Dade county's second economic generator. Most of the foliage growers do not agree with Farm Bureau's agenda.

Obviously, we do have extreme environmental groups that would like to fence South Florida and prevent all humans from ever touching native species. However, more of the community recognizes the need for balance and harmony. The Collier/ Hoover plan combined will generate economic growth, increase property values and produce new markets for "Redland Products" and farm land. The Colliers have an excellent track record in Naples for responsible economic growth. Naples has been a sustainable boom economy and all the Colliers did was market the proximity to Everglades National Park. Visit any search engine and type Florida Everglades and the first 200 items that appear will be businesses located in Naples. Nothing appeared about Homestead/Florida City until very recently. We host the MAIN ENTRANCE to the park!

I'm sure your getting the picture by now. I tell you directly that I stand to make a quick fortune if you award the property to the county. My small one and a quarter acre of commercial property would increase in value tremendously. However, I would rather see the area preserved for future generations. Our two National Parks belong to every American. It is imperative to preserve our Historic Agriculture district so America can always feed her own population. There is no where else in the U.S.A. and very few places in the world where such a wide variety of crops and foliage can be grown and maintained.

I point out that your own study shows that the while the cargo airport provides jobs it is the most risky to the environment and quality of life of our residents. Moreover, the trend toward robotics and automation will make many of those jobs obsolete in the near future. Furthermore, you might notice that Miami International Airport is riddled with scandal and corruption. The argument that the Base should belong to the public is ludicrous. HAH!! walked out of numerous public meetings when the questions got tough. They are a private, profit driven group of irresponsible developers. Please help us to preserve and create a south Miami Dade County that will be sustainable for generations to come!!!

Very Truly Yours,

Paul J. Mulhern

143

10/18 126 AM

143

10/18 126 AM

000354 PAGE 1 OF 2

000354

PAGE 1 OF 2

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2-8-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

PLEASE consider the Commercial Airport for Homestead Air Base. It will provide good paying jobs and boost the severely hurting economy of South Miami-Dade County. Good paying jobs will automatically bring in higher values in our community.

Homestead was a thriving area before Hurricane Andrew, now it's a dead zone for both its citizens residing there AND for the local businessman who is trying to make a living. Neither our citizens nor our businesses will survive the very near future if a good plan for the Air Base land is not adopted.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINÚZ AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: PATRICIA OTTO  
ADDRESS/DIRECCI3N: 13242 SW 262 TERRACE  
CITY/CUIDAD: HOMESTEAD  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33032

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Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000354 PAGE 2 OF 2

000354

PAGE 2 OF 2

The golf course would be a "nice to have" in our area, but we already have the beautiful Redland Country Club for our area golfers. And let's face it, a caddy makes less than half of what an airport worker makes. An office park won't survive. As I stated previously, our businesses are dying or dead now. Who in their right mind would want to start a business in such a depressed area? The office park structure would stay empty for years and years, not providing the needed jobs that the airport would. If locals and tourists want to see an aquarium, they can go to other parts of our beautiful country. Our area is known for its reefs, snorkeling and scuba diving. Locals and tourists can see the real thing in our Bay and ocean waters.

I understand cutting back on the military budget which includes closing of certain air bases around our country. I also understand how badly it affects any local economy when a base is closed. The Air Force has a TREMENDOUS opportunity to make Homestead Air Base a showcase on how the military/government can work in conjunction with the local economy to provide the best possible solution for all involved. That best possible solution for Homestead is a commercial airport. Let's bring in the right solution and bring Homestead back to what it used to be - a thriving and beautiful place to live.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patricia Otto  
13242 SW 262 Terrace  
Homestead FL 33032





COMMENTS

I implore you to use your influence to defeat any plan for a cargo airport at the former Air Force Base site.

Sincerely yours,

*Lauriette R. Young*

(Mrs.) Lauriette R. Young

000366

February 8, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Christina Hacker. I am a sophomore at a local high school, Coral Gables Senior High, and I was recently informed that the government is planning to build an airport in Homestead. This airport would have over 250,000 flights a year, one every minute. The constant pollution and noise from these planes would damage what people have been trying to preserve for much longer than airplanes flew the sky. These plants and animals that dwell in the Everglades and Biscayne Bay are a vital part of our ecosystem. Not only are they a part of the food chain, but they have brought smiles to the faces of people from toddlers to octogenarians. Although technological advancements and job creation are necessary in the twenty-first century, we can not destroy the territory where we are trying to build our future, especially when there are other locations. Please reconsider building this unnecessary airport to save and help all of us.

Sincerely Yours,

*Christina Hacker*  
Christina Hacker

000367

*Jacquelyn Esco*  
7000 S.W. 124 St  
Miami, FL 33156  
(305) 235-3060

US Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX

To whom it may concern,  
Although I have son who has flown into Homestead Air Base as an Air Force pilot, I am very opposed to the re-building of a base down there. If there is a satellite of Mia Int. Airport, the increase in flights from AFB of 25,000 flights per yr. will increase to 250,000. Protect the Everglades, save the herons save what we have left. Forget the corrupt politicians. Thank you.  
*Jacquelyn Esco*



000365

OCEAN REEF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

February 10, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Re: Homestead Air Base Reuse

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing 34 written comment sheets along with an additional suggestion sheet that have been delivered to this office for mailing to you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*David C. Ritz*  
David C. Ritz,  
Community Administrator

DCR:sp

Enclosures (35)

24 DocuNet Ltd., #505 • N.W. Largo, Florida 33537  
(205) 367-3267 • Fax: 305-367-4249 • orca@earthlink.com

Suggestions for Airport comment sheets

I strongly oppose the HABDI Homestead Airport development because of its impact on the already struggling environments of Biscayne Bay and the Florida Everglades.

I oppose the HABDI Homestead Airport development because of the noise and water pollution that it will create above my home and surrounding waters.

I vehemently oppose the HABDI airport development for environmental reasons. I do support the Collier-Hoover Environmental Group's plan that would protect the environment and create jobs.

I oppose the HABDI airport development. With our government spending 8 billion dollars to restore the damage in the Everglades it is ridiculous to build an airport which can only defeat the purpose. I support the Collier-Hoover plan.

The proposed HABDI airport development would be an environmental nightmare. Make a WIN/WIN situation by choosing the Collier-Hoover plan that would least likely harm the environment, create new jobs and would continue to encourage tourism to South Florida.

000369

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participación DATE/FECHA: 2/10/2000  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I REALIZE THAT MORE JOBS ARE NEEDED IN THE HOMESTEAD AND SURROUNDING VICINITIES BUT THERE HAS TO BE MORE SOLUTIONS THAN THE PROPOSED AIRPORT! WHO WANTS ALL THAT SOOT, NOISE AND CONTAMINATION ABOVE THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD? I REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE COLLIER-HOOVER PLAN IS ONE GOOD WAY TO ACHIEVE A BETTER SOLUTION TO THIS POLLUTION PROBLEM & THAT THERE HAS TO BE!

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: JARNE T. WISEMAN  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 102 CREEK HOUSE  
CITY/CUADRA: KEY LARGO, FL 33067  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL

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000370

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participación DATE/FECHA: 2/18/2000  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am strongly against this project. It is a waste of money and a waste of time. It will cause more pollution and noise than it is worth. I support the Collier-Hoover plan which is a much better solution to the problem. I will continue to fight for a better solution.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Colleen T. Goodall  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 595 La Palma Rd.  
CITY/CUADRA: Key Largo, FL 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL

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000371

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participación DATE/FECHA: 2/17/00  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

PLEASE NO AIRPORT. IT CONTRADICTS THE \$8 MILLION TO SAVE THE EVERGLADES.

PLEASE TAKE THE COLLIER-HOOVER PLAN. THAT IS A WIN WIN SITUATION.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Patricia Pluse  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 4 Highway Road  
CITY/CUADRA: Key Largo  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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COMMENTS

000372

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 1-7-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I strongly agree the combination of an airport  
in downtown Ft. Lauderdale would bring in  
my business & jobs.*

*Linda Hable*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINDE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Linda Hable  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 20 Carol Street, Ft. L  
CITY/CUIDAD: Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000374

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 1-7-99

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I agree the HERTT airport development with  
our airport. The airport & building always  
will be the same in the eventuality it is  
relocated to build an airport which can  
only meet the airport's support for  
Carter Hoover Park.*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINDE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Elizabeth A. Cabral  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 13 N. Bridge Lane  
CITY/CUIDAD: Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33030  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33030

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000373

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 1-8-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*The airport would have a terrible  
impact on the uniqueness of the  
Everglades. We would  
rather have a large drive to  
Miami Airport and leave  
Everglades unscathed.*

*No!*

*Airport*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINDE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: L. Grunow  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 58 Martin Lane  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000375

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-7-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I agree the airport due to the  
impact on the environment*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINDE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: July 24  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: Peachy Lane #24  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000376

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/FECHEA: 2/11/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I oppose the airport site to  
encourage = I support the  
roads. Close you.

NAME/NOMBRE: PA DeLoach

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 23 DeLoach Park

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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000379

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/FECHEA: 2-07-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I strongly oppose the HARBID plan  
I am the nominated airport,  
I support the airport/center plan.

NAME/NOMBRE: Marilyn Williams

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 13 Cypress Road

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: Florida, 33037

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Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/FECHEA:

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I believe making the Homestead Air Base  
into a commercial airport for cargo would be  
a great investment in the environment for a  
large sum of money. The airport has  
already had a major impact on the environment.  
I would like to see the airport  
protected the way it is.

NAME/NOMBRE: James V Brooks

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 24 DeLoach Park #156

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/FECHEA: 2/11/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I do not need airport for road - more better to  
really connect with resort development.  
I agree airport is on a fair site. Collier-Hourly  
flight does not only be using just ground  
planned mess.

NAME/NOMBRE: Jean R. Savage

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 33 Orchard Ln

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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COMMENTS

000350

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: 2/4/80

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*Please do the maximum amount of the construction of this area, I strongly believe that another development in this area, by being put off, will be a compromise of life in the local area. It is my hope that the decision is placed in the hands of the people who will be most directly affected. I would like to see the project approved.*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Sheel, Jane Hiscida*  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *4th Avenue SE #18*  
CITY/CUIDAD: *Coalinga, CA 93426*  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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000352

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I have been in the project since I have a lot of experience in the local area. I am a member of the local area and I have a lot of experience in the local area. I would like to see the project approved.*

NAME/NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/CUIDAD: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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000351

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: 2/1/80

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I believe that the local area is a very important part of the local area. I would like to see the project approved.*

NAME/NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/CUIDAD: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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Arlington, VA 22209-2402  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000353

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: Feb 10, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I support the project and I would like to see the project approved.*

NAME/NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/CUIDAD: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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000364

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito

Public Hearing for Homeless Draft SEIS - Audiencia Pùblica para el Borrador SEIS de Homeless

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/TIEMPO: Feb 8 2002

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I oppose the Homeless Draft development  
because of noise interference of the  
escalated noise. I suggest the  
noise barrier.

NAME/NOMBRE: Jack Spenser  
\*\*\*\*\*CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE\*\*\*\*\*

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 80 Shepherd Ln

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL

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Please hand this form in at MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2001.

Favor de entregar esta forma a ENVIA/BLA POR CORREO ANTES del 7 de marzo del 2001.

Homeless SEIS  
AFRICA/IZC  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-695-8828

000366

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito

Public Hearing for Homeless Draft SEIS - Audiencia Pùblica para el Borrador SEIS de Homeless

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/TIEMPO: 1/1/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

We are extremely opposed to the use of the noise abatement  
measures proposed in the section of the plan that will not  
demonstrate the effectiveness of the noise abatement measures.  
We would like to see a design that has the best noise abatement  
measures possible. We are not satisfied with the noise abatement  
measures proposed in the plan.

NAME/NOMBRE: BOB WAKE  
\*\*\*\*\*CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE\*\*\*\*\*

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 20 Lakeside Blvd

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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000385

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito

Public Hearing for Homeless Draft SEIS - Audiencia Pùblica para el Borrador SEIS de Homeless

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/TIEMPO: 28.02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I oppose the noise barrier but support  
the noise barrier the size plan.

NAME/NOMBRE: Matthew Farrell  
\*\*\*\*\*CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE\*\*\*\*\*

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 12 Canal Street Rd

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL

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AFRICA/IZC  
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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-695-8828

000387

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito

Public Hearing for Homeless Draft SEIS - Audiencia Pùblica para el Borrador SEIS de Homeless

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/TIEMPO: 27.02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Oppose noise barrier but  
support the noise barrier size plan.

NAME/NOMBRE: Will H. Kelly  
\*\*\*\*\*CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE\*\*\*\*\*

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 12 Canal Street Rd

CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL

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000354

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Pùblica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead  
Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n  
DATE/EFECHA: 9/11/00  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I oppose the airport but support  
the Collier-Thruway plan!

NAME/NOMBRE: Julie Zickler  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 5 South Williams Drive  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo Florida 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000390

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Pùblica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead  
Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n  
DATE/EFECHA: Feb 8/2000  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE AIRPORT

NAME/NOMBRE: SHIRLEY CHANNEl A. WELLES  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 333 Key Largo Blvd  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000359

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Pùblica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead  
Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n  
DATE/EFECHA: Feb 11/2000  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I strongly oppose the third Thruway  
Airport development because of  
1. Increased Environmental Issues  
2. Road Construction  
3. Area Soil Spreading  
I will be at the meeting on 2/11/00  
I will be at the meeting on 2/11/00  
I will be at the meeting on 2/11/00

NAME/NOMBRE: Mrs. S. W. Gentry  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: Ocean Reef Club  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, Fla 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

Comment will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Providing this information will be considered consent to publish it.  
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000391

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Pùblica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead  
Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n  
DATE/EFECHA: Feb 18 2000  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE BUILDING OF THE  
HOMESTEAD AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT.  
THE AIRPORT WILL POTENTIALLY RUIN THE ENVIRONMENT,  
THE HEALTH OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO WORK BY  
THE BEACHES BY THE AIRPORT.

NAME/NOMBRE: MARLENE DEL TORO  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 333 Ocean Reef Club  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000392

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
DATE/FECHA: 02/07/2000

I oppose, very strongly, the Homestead Airport  
development, because of its impact on King's Bay  
environment of Everglades.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUA AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: MARSHANE ALLEN DEWINTER  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 320 MATTHEWLY DR  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Aurora, FL 32802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000394

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
DATE/FECHA:

I strongly oppose the Homestead Airport  
development. It will impact the environment of  
King's Bay and Everglades.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUA AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Eleanor LaFargues  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: P. O. Box 100  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000393

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
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Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
DATE/FECHA: 2/8/00

I oppose the Homestead Airport development for  
environmental reasons. I do support the  
development of the airport but not the  
development of the Everglades  
jobs

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUA AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: ORNY SIMON  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 3300 SW 10th  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicaran sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su direcci3n personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta informaci3n es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 in:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIALA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Aurora, FL 32802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000395

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n  
PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
DATE/FECHA: 2/7/2002

I oppose the development of the  
airport. It will impact the environment of  
King's Bay and Everglades.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUA AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Sally Peterson  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 84 Sycamore Lane  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, FL 33037

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FAX: 703-696-8828

COMMENTS

000396

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 1-8-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I oppose the HADBL Airport development  
you the environmental services. I do  
support the Collier Home Environmental  
Thompson plan that would protect  
the environment and create jobs.*

NAME/NOMBRE: Adrian Stappan

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 214 Lakeside Lane #458

CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000397

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/2/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I strongly oppose the HADBL  
Airport development  
because of the impact on  
the environment of  
Bourayne Bay & the  
Everglades*

NAME/NOMBRE: Mary Louly

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 126 Bahama Ave

CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo Fla

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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000398

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-1-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*BOTH PLANS ARE NECESSARY BUT ONLY ONE  
CAN BE APPROVED*

*MARGOT A WIN/WIN SITUATION BY CHOOSING  
THE ONE LEAST LIKELY TO HARM US -  
THAT IS THE HONOR/COLLIER PLAN*

*IT WILL BRING MANY JOBS AND TRUCKS AND  
KEEP US HEALTHY.*

NAME/NOMBRE: DR. G. SORCIA

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 303 CREEK HOUSE

CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000399

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb. 7, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*NO! To the Airport - We are spending  
Millions To save the Everglades - We'll  
Save by Site & Federal Regs. - Save our land from  
all the development to one that that putting in an  
airport - Consider this a terrible idea!*

NAME/NOMBRE: Mrs. A. B. Allen

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 214 Lakeside Lane P.O. Box 458

CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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FAX: 703-696-8828

000400

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: Feb 8, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

This airport would be disastrous  
to the environment of our community  
I support the Collier  
project

NAME/NOMBRE: Koen W Townsend  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 890A SNEPPER LANE  
CITY/CIUDAD: Ocean Reef Club  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: Key Largo, FL 33037

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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FAX: 703-696-8828

000401

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2/7/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I oppose the HABDI Homestead  
airport because of the noise & water  
pollution it will create above my home  
& because of the damage it  
will cause to the environment.

NAME/NOMBRE: Francee Ford  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 41 Card Sound Rd.  
CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000407

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2-7-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

THIS IS GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR MIAMI, HOMESTEAD,  
VARANSA AND FORTLAUDERDALE.  
WE NEED THIS AIRPORT ASAP TO BRING MORE TOURS AND TO  
HAVE LESS HOMELESS FAMILIES, MORE INCOME FOR HOMESTEAD.  
THIS PROJECT WILL BRING RAPID GROW TO ALL THIS AREAS  
ECONOMY UP AND TO OPEN A BIG DOOR TO LATIN AMERICAN  
MORE BUSINESS INVESTORS WILL COME TO HOMESTEAD FL.  
I SUPPORT TO CONVERT THE FORMER HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE  
BASE INTO A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT, THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Blank lines for additional comments.

MANNY CHACON  
Manager  
**LABOR FINDERS**  
Miami (305) 545-8877 | Hialeah (305) 987-0249 | Homestead (305) 242-6028  
www.laborfinders.com

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: MANNY CHACON, MANAGER OF LABOR FINDERS  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 1279 W. FLAGLER ST.  
CITY/CIUDAD: MIAMI,  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FLORIDA 33135

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000410

15425 S.W. 88 Avenue  
Miami, FL 33157  
February 9, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Re: Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS

Gentlemen:

I am upset that U.S. citizens across the entire United States of America were not involved in the public hearing regarding the proposed transfer of Homestead Air Force Base property to Miami-Dade County for development as a commercial airport.

This proposed transfer and airport will affect two (2) national parks and numerous federal wildlife sanctuaries if allowed, and I believe all U.S. citizens have a right to express their opinions on this transfer. You did not even hold a public hearing in the Upper Keys, and the residents of the Upper Keys will be directly impacted (they are in the flight paths) if this area is developed into a commercial airport.

Is this a return to taxation without representation. That is the norm in Miami-Dade County, but I had hoped it was not true elsewhere - guess I was incorrect. The Miami-Dade County government should not be allowed to develop this property - corruption, fraud and greed are too commonplace here. Don't you read the paper or watch the news?

I urge you to hold additional public hearings across the United States. Let the people have a say in what they are paying to preserve. Jet fuel and noise will probably be the final blow to Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park. In addition, I don't feel too safe having a nuclear power plant in the flight path of the proposed airport.

Sincerely,

Joan M. Clark  
Joan M. Clark



000-119

Sender  
3 Drive Lane  
MOUNTAIN VIEW  
VA 22091-4119  
Tel: (509)252-6493

RICHARD F. SHELLEY  
Washington  
07/01/1981

Receiver  
17 EASTVIEW ROAD  
KEY LAMON, FL 33937  
(889)347-3489  
FAX (889)347-2283

FEBRUARY 9, 2000

TO: HOMESTEAD SEIS  
AFC/CAEX  
1700 NORTH MOORE STREET  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMERCIAL AIRPORT AT HOMESTEAD AIR BASE

WE LIVE AND VOTE IN KEY LAMON, FLORIDA, IN THE COMMUNITY OF OCEAN BEES AND WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAJOR AIRPORT AT THE SITE OF THE HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE THAT WILL RESULT IF THE AIR FORCE TRANSFERS THE BASE TO THE HISTORICAL CONSERVATION BOARD COUNTY.

PUTTING A BRIDE ASSET IN THE HANDS OF SUCH AN UNRELIABLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE THE RESULT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY.

THE HABIT/COMMERCIAL AIRPORT PROJECT WOULD BENEFIT ONLY THE POLITICAL AND THE INSIDERS WHILE THERE ARE ALTERNATE PLANS FROM WHICH THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH SHANKS COUNTY WOULD BENEFIT WHILE AVOIDING THE INEVITABLE DANGEROUS IMPACT OF THE PROJECT AND BRACKEN NATIONAL PARKS. WHAT POSSIBLE SENSE CAN BE MADE OF DEPARTING THE \$1.500.000 WHILE SPENDING A PROPOSED EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS TO PROTECT IT?

BEST REGARDS

RICHARD F. SHELLEY

13604 SW 109 Court  
Miami, FL 33176  
Feb. 8, 2000

000-124

US Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am opposed to the development of a commercial airport at Homestead. I have lived in the Miami area for over 30 years and would like to see a more environmental sound project be built there. I urge you to consider other alternatives for the redevelopment of this land.

Sincerely,  
*Elizabeth A. Crane*  
Elizabeth A. Crane

000-121

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input!

Please print/favor de escribir claramente

DATE/TIEMPO: \_\_\_\_\_

*IT seems to me that use as the head of the once Air Force Base in Homestead could be done rather intelligently. It is not as if the base by the historical/conservation board as a piece of property. It would be the only AIRPORT ALTERNATIVE and a very good one. It is possible to think as statesmen providing the service we have been looking to the community. It is not as if we are looking to the community in the future as well as a good one. It will allow us to see the appropriate natural gifts.*

*Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Shelley*

NAME: NUMBER: MARGARET BAILEY, HOWARD BAILEY  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/CIUDAD: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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Si publicamos sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su direccion personal si no desea que sea publicada en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta informacion se considerara como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Favor de entregar esta forma a ENVIA/MAIL POOL COMBOD, AVISO 47 de febrero del 2000.

Homestead SEIS

1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-555-8128

000-126

To: The Honorable

Message from a concerned voter:

From: *Elizabeth A. Crane*  
Subject: *SEIS Energy Air*  
*Jacksonville, FL 32227*

*I am opposed to the attempted conversion of Homestead Air Force Base into a commercial airport. This unnecessary project would result in the destruction of hundreds of acres in St. Johns Waterway Park and Emerald Hill, Fla. This proposed region cannot afford to be further impacted by additional development practices.*

*Elizabeth A. Crane*  
2/9/00

COMMENTS

000429

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/FECHEA: 2/17/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
FOR GOOD JOBS REMOVAL THE MIXED USE ALTERNATIVE.  
A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT WOULD BRING LOW-RENTY HRS  
EMPLOYMENT TO OUR AREA WHICH ALREADY HAS  
EXCESS OF THESE TYPES OF HIGH PAYING DESIRABLE  
JOBS. THE COMMERCIAL AIRPORT WILL BRING HERNY  
ADLSEY AND PLANTATION TERRIFIC BOTH ON THE  
AROUND AND IN THE AIR. OUR LOCAL CITIZENS  
WILL BE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL HAVE TO SWERVE  
BACK ALONG THE HIGHWAY TO LIVE NEXT TO A  
LARGE AIRPORT. ITS B LIVING HELL!

NAME/NOMBRE: PAUL E LEHMAN  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION:  
CITY/CUIDAD:  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000438

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/FECHEA: February 10, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
I had the opportunity to attend the public hearing at Homestead on February 11, 2000, and am definitely opposed to establishing a commercial airport facility at the Homestead Air Force Base. The hearing as conducted by politicians for political purposes without regard to the irreparable damage to wild life, environmental and noise-free living conditions. I feel that the mixed use alternatives would accomplish more in creating jobs, conserving and bettering our National parks and Wild-Life, and keeping noise levels within reasonable amounts.

Thank you for allowing us to give our opinion

NAME/NOMBRE: Mr. E. Mc. MORSE, JR.  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 5 HARBOUR GREEN DE.  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, Fl.  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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000435

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/FECHEA: Feb. 7, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
The arguments that I have heard PRO a new airport of HAP are: it will provide 28,000 new jobs. Currently unemployed to draw from the job market nor the necessary housing to accommodate any more immigrants. The airport would be 12-14 miles from patterns with those in current use to facilitate MILA that has and peak areas will be substituted to all of the noise & pollution. No fronts commuted about roads which public access - all of the other alternatives (give us social problems) other nothing but makes degradation of the land and a price hit on the south coast. Enough already. So, FLA. has sufficient to have the good intentions of the money. Thanks.

NAME/NOMBRE: OLIVER B. HOBY  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: to PLANTATION VILLAGES  
CITY/CUIDAD: JAMELINA  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL. 33070

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000447

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/FECHEA: 2/26/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
We are in support of the Department of the Interior's position concerning the Draft of the Homestead Air Force Base. The initial reference of this issue is by the National Parks which should be the Department of the Interior. We are in support of the Department of the Interior's position concerning the Draft of the Homestead Air Force Base. The initial reference of this issue is by the National Parks which should be the Department of the Interior. We are in support of the Department of the Interior's position concerning the Draft of the Homestead Air Force Base. The initial reference of this issue is by the National Parks which should be the Department of the Interior.

NAME/NOMBRE: SAMUEL (BERT) KENNETH THURMAN & SISTER MICHELE A. ALUMY  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 200 LEECHES RD.  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Largo, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000505

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participación DATE/FECHA: 2-10-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I AM ADAMATELY OPPOSED TO PUTTING  
A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT AT THE FORMER AIR FORCE  
BASE IN HOMESTEAD. PLEASE CONSIDER OTHER  
PROPOSALS FOR THIS PROPERTY.

THANK YOU  
Larry & Darla Finley

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Larry & DARLA FINLEY  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 101 CREEK HOUSE  
CITY/CIUDAD: KEY LARGO,  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FLA. 33037

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FAX: 703-696-8828

considered for EPA superfund cleanup funds should the land be sold to the local government.

The (SEIS) does begin to address nitrogen oxides and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons but fails to correlate its direct impact on the severely threatened coral reefs. It does not begin to address the long-term runoff problems that occur through routine aircraft servicing and seepage or hydraulic and petroleum products. Just reference the environmental studies completed in regards to BRAC base closings and you will have a baseline for the upland environmental impacts of airport facilities.

There is a complete failure of the SEIS to mitigate impact to coral reefs. We have seen plenty of evidence as to the fragility of this ecosystem through loss of coral cover, sea grass die off, algal blooms, coral fungal diseases, and bleaching.

The Hoover-Collier plan would serve as a much better balance between airbase development and protection the National Parks and National Marine Sanctuaries. Politically it is a win win situation since the Collier's are willing to give up some of their oil gas rights in the Big Cypress National Preserve in exchange for the HAFB lands. The government has been fighting to regain control of these oil gas rights for years.

Do not be fooled by the Miami-Dade County last minute offer to trade in the Dade Collier airport (TNT) in exchange for the HAFB land. This airport has little value and almost no use. The same environmental concerns surrounding HAFB eliminated Dade Collier (TNT) from completing its development.

Lets not make the same mistake twice I urge you to consider the alternatives to the commercial airport option so we may preserve the National Parks, Coral Reefs, and National Marine Sanctuaries.

Sincerely,  
MWhite  
Michael W White

000506

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participación DATE/FECHA: 2/10/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Do not ruin Key Largo and the environment  
by allowing a commercial airport in Homesteads former  
Air Force Base!!! This is a step backwards for  
ecology. Please consider the alternate Collier/Chase  
proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Mike & Barb Murchie  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 17021 North Pt. Dr.  
CITY/CIUDAD: Wickliffe, KS 67230  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicarán sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000507

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input / Gracias por su participación DATE/FECHA: Feb 9, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

PLEASE PLEASE STOP AND  
THINK ABOUT THE ECOLOGY OF  
OUR TWO NATIONAL PARKS AND  
THE KEYS. WE CANNOT HAVE A  
COMMERCIAL AIRPORT REPLACING  
THE AIR FORCE BASE IN HOMESTEAD.  
CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE CHASE/  
COLLIER PLAN! LET'S GET IT RIGHT  
THE FIRST TIME.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Robert & Catherine G. Jaslyn  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 155 S. HARBOR DRIVE  
CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo, FL 33037  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

COMMENTS

000510

2/11/00

HOMESTEAD DRAFT SEISS  
AFBCA/PA  
1700N. MOORE ST. SUITE 2300  
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-2802

I DO NOT WANT AN AIRPORT IN  
HOMESTEAD. I BELIEVE THE ONLY PEOPLE  
WHO DO ARE THE POLITICIANS & BUSINESS  
INTERESTS. I DO NOT KNOW ONE  
SINGLE AVIATOR, EVERYBODY RESIDENT OF  
SOUTH DADE, WHO WANTS THIS AIRPORT.

I BELIEVE AN AIRPORT WOULD RUIN OUR  
BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT - PARTICULARLY  
NOISE POLLUTION.

PLEASE - DO NOT GIVE IN TO PRESSURE  
FROM THE POLITICIANS.  
NO AIRPORT.

LYNN M. MCKENZIE  
661 N W 20 ST.  
HOMESTEAD, FL 33030  
*Lynn M. McKenzie*

000516

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

MUSTAFA CANAKI *(Signature)* 2/8/00  
I SUPPORT VERY STRONGLY THE  
NEW AIRPORT AT HOMESTEAD BASE.  
IT WILL GREATLY IMPROVE  
THE CITY OF HOMESTEAD FROM  
FINANCIAL POINT OF VIEW

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* CONTINÚE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO \*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/CIUDAD: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicarán sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 in:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000524

2/11/00

USRF  
HOMESTEAD SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700N. MOORE ST.  
SUITE 2300  
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-2802

I LIVE IN HOMESTEAD AND OWN A  
HOME BECAUSE IT'S BEAUTIFUL,  
PEACEFUL & QUIET. I, AND EVERYBODY  
ELSE I KNOW (EXCEPT POLITICIANS, ETC.)  
DO NOT WANT AN AIRPORT HERE.  
THIS IS A TERRIBLE IDEA FOR OUR  
BEAUTIFUL AREA.

PLEASE DON'T BUILD AN  
AIRPORT HERE.

*Lynn M. McKenzie*  
LYNN M. MCKENZIE  
661 N W 20 ST.  
HOMESTEAD, FL 33030

000526

M. J. Jadick,  
AFBCA / EX, (Attn: Homestead SEIS),  
1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2300,  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802.

2-11-00

RE: - Development of Homestead Air Base.

Dear Sir, I asked to speak at the public hearing on 2-1-00, but had to leave at 9:30 pm for an appointment. I intended to voice the fears of my family and my neighbors over the noise that goes with any large airport.

However, the many officials who spoke first made it clear that north Miami-Dade county wants to solve its airport problem irrespective of the effects on the thousands of residents of Cutler Ridge southwards. Even if noise and chemical pollution of the national parks is ameliorated (and only partly), the flight paths shown to us will affect all residents, even us to the west in the Redland. Property values will decline, but most of us are concerned about our daily life. We have some experience of military airplane noise, but this we are happy to suffer for national security. PEOPLE LIVING IN THE GENERAL HOMESTEAD AREA OBJECT TO THE UNDENIABLE NOISE ASSOCIATED WITH A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT

Considering the inefficiencies at the present airport, the sequence of events will be first saturation of Miami and Fort Lauderdale airport facilities, some spillover into OpaLocka airport, then a fourth runway at Miami, followed by development of Homestead Air Base until saturated, then a second runway at Homestead (despite the assurance to the contrary). WHAT THEN?

There appears to be a group of businessmen which regards Homestead Air Base mainly as a business venture. The venture depends upon very considerable inputs by the county to develop the road system to the Base, and a complete change in the way of life for people living in the area. At the meeting, those speakers supporting an airport who live in S. Dade all emphasized the number of jobs provided. JOB GENERATION IS BEING USED AS AN EXCUSE BY AIRPORT DEVELOPERS

Only a few speakers pointed out that almost any development would generate jobs. Further, I doubt that there exist in S. Dade many airplane mechanics, computer operators or other persons with skills commending the promised high wages; such people would commute from further north. JOBS OF WORKERS WILL LEAD TO FURTHER HOUSING DEVELOPMENT TO THE DETRIMENT OF THIS BASICALLY AGRICULTURAL AREA

Daily I meet people who fear a commercial airport at Homestead. Regrettably, few of them went to the meeting, assuming that the "powers that be" will do the sensible thing. Once done, the proposed airport cannot be undone. The flood of people who left this area after hurricane Andrew will be followed by another flood. Please turn a deaf ear to the noise of the developers for a moment and consider the people who live here. DEVELOP HOMESTEAD AIR BASE BUT NOT AS A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT

DAVE & SHIRLEY ROMNEY *(Signature)*

26021 S.W. 199th Avenue, Homestead, Florida 33031, U.S.A.  
Tel: (305) 247-7479



COMMENTS

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



JAMES L. "JAMIE" ADAMS, JR. BARBARA C. BARNHART QUINTON L. HEDGEPEETH, DOS H.A. "HEIDI" HUFFMAN  
 Bushnell Jacksonville Miami Deltona  
 DAVID E. MEEHAN JULIE K. MORRIS TONY MOSS EDWIN P. ROBERTS, DC JOHN D. ROOD  
 St. Petersburg Sarasota Miami Pensacola Jacksonville

ALLAN L. ROBERT, Ph.D., Executive Director  
 VICTOR J. HOLLER, Assistant Executive Director

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
 BRADLEY J. HARTMAN, DIRECTOR  
 (904)468-6611 TDD (904)468-6942  
 FAX (904) 468-5479

February 4, 2000

000538

Ms. Cherie Trainor  
 Florida State Clearinghouse  
 Department of Community Affairs  
 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

RE: SAI #FL200001040002C, Draft  
 Supplemental Environmental Impact  
 Statement for Disposal of Portions of the  
 Former Homestead Air Force Base, Miami-  
 Dade County

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has reviewed the referenced Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact (SEIS), and offers the following comments and recommendations.

The Air Force has determined that 1,632 acres at the former Homestead Air Force Base (HAFB) are excess to its needs, and seeks to dispose of the surplus property in a manner that supports local community plans for economic revitalization, and protects Biscayne Bay and nearby national parks. The retained property at the former HAFB is currently being used to support military activities of the Air Force Reserve Command, Florida Air National Guard, and Army Air Force Exchange Service Base Exchange. The proposed action is to transfer the surplus property to Miami-Dade County for use as a commercial airport (Homestead Regional Airport). The proposed airport would be dual-use with continued military and government operations. The airport is projected to have over 150,000 total military, commercial, and general aviation air operations by 2015.

The surplus property proposed for transfer includes the airfield and its runway (about 915 acres), and about 327 acres expected to be used for aviation support activities. About 339 acres is planned to be developed for airport-related and other industrial and commercial businesses. A 24-acre vacant area between the existing Jobs Corps and Homeless Trust Center is identified for educational, local government, or other institutional use.

Upland areas on the former Homestead AFB are essentially all disturbed communities composed of grassland and agriculture, shrub and brushland, exotic plant, and barren and urban

630 South Meridian Street Tallahassee FL 32399-1600  
 www.flwildlife.com

Ms. Cherie Trainor  
 February 4, 2000  
 Page 2

community types. About 30.8 acres of remnant pine rocklands occur on the surplus property. Only about 0.6 acres of remnant pine rocklands would be impacted by the proposed action. Freshwater marsh is the most extensive wetland type within the former HAFB surplus property, located primarily near the existing runway. No construction is planned on existing wetlands, but the hydrology of these wetlands could be altered due to the proposed action.

We have several concerns regarding the proposed action. We note that the proposed airport is located about 1.5 miles west of Biscayne Bay and Biscayne Bay National Park. Everglades National Park is located about 10 miles southwest of the site. The development of a commercial airport could negatively impact these regionally significant natural resources.

Air and Water Quality

The Draft SEIS indicates that aircraft exhaust would increase atmospheric nitrogen deposition over current deposition rates by 23% in BNP. We express concern that such increases in atmospheric nitrogen may speed up the processes of eutrophication or acidification in Biscayne Bay. We also note that the operations associated with the proposed action would likely increase the generation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). PAHs are toxic organic compounds emitted in the exhaust of aircraft, automobiles, and trucks. However, there is little quantitative information available about their generation rates and dispersal in the atmosphere or aquatic environments. PAHs are known to be insoluble in water and readily attach to soil and dust particles, and accumulate in the sediments of aquatic systems. Moreover, they are known to be toxic to biota at very low concentrations. Presumably, the operation of a commercial airport will result in an increase in the amount of PAHs introduced into Biscayne Bay. Nevertheless, the effects of such an increase in PAHs on the biota of Biscayne Bay are not well understood.

The proposed project, and off-site development generated by the project, will significantly increase stormwater runoff. According to the draft SEIS, total runoff is projected to increase by 13% over baseline by 2005, and 43% by 2015. A stormwater management system (the Homestead Regional Airport Surface Water Management Master Plan) will be employed to manage and treat stormwater runoff. However, this plan has not yet been submitted to the South Florida Water Management District. We are concerned that increased stormwater runoff will result in increased inputs of nutrients and contaminants into Biscayne Bay.

Noise

As indicated the draft SEIS, operation of the proposed Homestead Regional Airport will increase the amount of time that there would be elevated noise levels in the community, and in Biscayne Bay and Everglades National Parks. We note that the mission of the National Park Service is to "preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations". This

Ms. Cherie Trainor  
 February 4, 2000  
 Page 3

includes maintaining a natural acoustic environment as free as possible from intrusive human-caused sounds. An increase in noise from the operation of a commercial airport will negatively impact the parks acoustic environment, and diminish the aesthetic experience of the visitor. We also observe that increased noise from the project could potentially impact bird species occurring in the area. The draft SEIS indicates that increased air operations could affect sensitive species between the former base and the western shoreline of Biscayne Bay, although many bird species seem to have acclimated to noise from aircraft currently using the former HAFB. Moreover, the SEIS stated that "Wading birds may flush or be startled during feeding, loafing or roosting (due to increased noise), but it is not anticipated that nesting birds would be sufficiently affected to abandon their nests. Some species of wading birds appear to habituate to high noise level, while others may choose to relocate to quieter areas with suitable habitat". The effects of increased noise on birds are not well known, and it is possible that increased noise from the proposed action will disrupt nesting, foraging, and migration patterns of bird species in the area.

Biscayne Bay Restoration

Lands located between the base property and Biscayne Bay are a vital component of restoration of the South Florida ecosystem (a major priority of the Federal government and the State of Florida) for their potential to allow a more natural quality, quantity, timing, and distribution of water flows to Biscayne Bay. As indicated in the draft SEIS, the establishment of a commercial airport "could generate additional airport-related facilities and commercial and industrial business beyond the airport property". The impacts of future airport-related development on these lands could jeopardize this important ecosystem restoration goal. We are aware that local, state, and federal agencies have recommended the establishment of a protected area on lands between the former HAFB and Biscayne Bay. The proposed protected area would be used to buffer Biscayne Bay and the Biscayne Bay National Park, and to restore overland sheet flow to Biscayne Bay. We support this recommendation, and strongly urge that any reuse alternative chosen for the former HAFB include protection from urbanization and degradation for lands east and southeast of the property.

The stated goal of the Air Force is to "transfer property at the former HAFB in a manner that supports local plans for economic revitalization of South Florida, and protects Biscayne Bay and the nearby National Parks". We believe that the development of a commercial airport does not achieve this goal, and may cause significant harm to Biscayne Bay, Biscayne Bay National Park, and Everglades National Park. In contrast, the mixed use alternatives proposed by the Collier Resources Company and the Hoover Environmental Group result in fewer environmental impacts to air and water quality, wildlife, and nearby national parks. The Collier Resources Company proposal involves trading mineral rights they own on lands in Southwest Florida for the surplus airport property. However, an alternative proposed by some in the conservation community would involve a trade for environmentally sensitive lands or surface development

Ms. Cherie Trainor  
 February 4, 2000  
 Page 4

rights on lands owned by the Collier Resources Company. We are intrigued by the potential of this latter proposal, and believe it would benefit the environment and wildlife resources, while providing economic benefits for the City of Homestead. Consequently, we recommend against adoption of the commercial airport alternative, and further exploration of a mixed-use alternative that could also conserve wildlife habitat on other lands in South Florida. Further, we strongly recommend that any alternative selected should include permanent protection for lands east and southeast of the former HAFB, to allow future restoration of sheet flow to Biscayne Bay.

Sincerely,

*Bradley J. Hartman*  
 Bradley J. Hartman, Director  
 Office of Environmental Services

BJH/JMWjs  
 ENV 1-10-2  
 Homestead Level

cc: Mr. John Corradetti, Jr.  
 Homestead SEIS, AFBCA/EX  
 1700 North Moore Street, Suite 2300  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2802



Monroe County  
Mayor  
530 Whitehead Street  
Key West, FL 33040  
(305) 292-3430 - Phone  
(305) 292-3577 - Fax



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Mayor Shirley Freeman, District 2  
Mayor Pro Tem George Naugent, District 2  
Wilhelmina Harvey, District 1  
Nora Williams, District 4  
Mary Kay Reich, District 3

000539

February 10, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFB CA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

RE: Resolution #36-2000 Alternatives of the Homestead Air Force Base  
Request for public meeting in Key Largo

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners passed the attached resolution at their January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport would cause a significant increase in the frequency of jet flights, and thus incidents of noise intrusions over the Upper Keys.

The unique character of the Keys, particularly the Upper Keys, can be substantially affected by land use decisions in southern Miami-Dade County.

The redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport would change land use patterns in south Miami Dade County, thereby creating adverse pressures on land use and the comprehensive plan in the Upper Keys. The redevelopment would also have the great potential to increase pollution in Biscayne Bay.

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners strongly urge you to hold a public meeting in Key Largo to receive public input on alternatives to the Homestead Air Force Base.

Sincerely,

*Shirley Freeman*  
Mayor Shirley Freeman

Attachment

FILED FOR RECORD

00 FEB -1 PM '00

RESOLUTION NO. 36 -2000

Mayor Shirley Freeman

DANNY L. KOLHAGE  
S.R.P. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES OF THE  
MONROE COUNTY HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE OTHER THAN A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the citizens of Monroe County enjoy an unique community character and are stewards of an unique and fragile environment;

WHEREAS, the unique character of the Keys, particularly the Upper Keys, can be substantially affected by land use decisions in southern Miami-Dade County;

WHEREAS, the use and enjoyment of Keys waters depends in large measure on the tranquility and peace of those waters and the airspace over those waters;

WHEREAS, the fishing industry in the Keys, including guided flats-fishing, requires tranquil and peaceful waters to maintain its economic viability;

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport would cause a significant increase in the frequency of jet flights, and thus incidents of noise intrusions, over the Upper Keys;

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport would change land use patterns in south Miami Dade County, thereby creating adverse pressures on land use and the comprehensive plan in the Upper Keys;

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport has the great potential to increase pollution in Biscayne Bay;

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base, an area subject to the same hurricane threats and potential evacuation orders as the Florida Keys, will add traffic congestion to the only artery available to evacuate Keys residents;

WHEREAS, Monroe County depends upon the federal government to protect the interests of the Keys in the redevelopment of the former Homestead Air Force Base; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, supports the conveyance of the former Homestead Air Force Base for development alternatives other than a commercial airport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US Air Force and FAA, in receiving public input on the Environmental Impact Study, conduct a public hearing in Key Largo to receive input on the impact of the proposed redevelopment, particularly in the areas of Growth Management and hurricane evacuation as well as environmental impacts.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2000.

Mayor Shirley Freeman  
Commissioner Wilhelmina Harvey  
Commissioner George Naugent  
Commissioner Mary Kay Reich  
Commissioner Nora Williams

YES  
YES  
YES  
YES  
YES

ISEL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, Clerk

By *David C. De Santis*  
Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By *Shirley Freeman*  
Mayor/Chairperson

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY  
BY *Robert N. Wright*  
DATE 2-20-00



000552

February 14, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22009-2802

Dear People:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed commercial airport in Homestead, Florida. The airport would be a disaster for the Everglades, Biscayne National Park, and, above all, the upper Keys.

I urge your consideration of the alternative plan proposed by the Collier Resources Company and the Hoover Environmental Group for a world-class aquarium, golf course, water park and retail stores, an alternative which balances economic development with the needs of the environment and quality of life.

Sincerely yours,

*Steven R. Phillips*  
Steven R. Phillips  
President

SRP/ab

Providing Solutions to Trading Needs

Steven R. Phillips 101425 Overseas Highway, Suite 311, Key Largo, Florida 33037  
Phone (305) 451-1499 Fax (305) 451-5273

**COMMENTS**

000553

February 12, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, Va. 22209-2802

To Whom it may Concern:

Please add our voices to those already heard in strong opposition to the proposed transfer of the Homestead Air Reserve Base in Florida to Miami-Dade County for the purpose of developing a large commercial airport.

As you have already been apprised, such a facility has been described as environmentally dangerous, resulting in unacceptable noise and pollution.

We live in the Ocean Reef Community, which is located on the northern end of Key Largo, attracted to the Florida Keys in no small part because of our personal commitment to the preservation and nurturing our environment and fragile ecosystem. The alternative proposals for the development of the base include a mixed residential and commercial use to the adjacent national parks while still producing new jobs and other economic advantages.

We urge you to consider the alternative proposal so that we can continue in our efforts to improve and sustain the integrity of Biscayne and Everglades National Parks.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Rhoda and Bert Miner*  
Rhoda and Bert Miner  
14 North Pelican Drive  
Ocean Reef  
Key Largo, Florida 33037

c.c. Vice President Al Gore  
Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt  
Defense Secretary William S. Cohen  
Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters

000556  
15301 S.W. 26th Terrace  
Homestead, FL 33032  
14 February 2000

U.S. Air Force  
Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

To Whom it may Concern:

Many of us who reside in southern Florida feel that the establishment of a major commercial airport on the site of the former Homestead Air Force Base would have a significant negative impact on the environments of the two nearby national parks (Everglades and Biscayne). We also feel that such a development would lower the quality of life here to some extent. Please help us to prevent the commercial airport development.

Yours sincerely,  
*Carl W. Campbell*

000558

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/13/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*THE FUTURE USE OF THE BASE SHOULD TAKE IN THE BALANCE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS AND CONSEQUENCES. I BELIEVE THAT A LARGE COMMERCIAL AIRPORT DOES NOT FIT THE LAND - NOW RESERVE OR CARRYING A THEORETICAL NUMBER (NOT PROVEN) - JOBS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN PRIORITY OVER THE LONGER TERM SUSTAINED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA. RESTRICTED THE OPEN WOULD REMOVE FROM THIS PROPOSAL.*

*LET US HOPE THE EVERGLADES HAVE BEEN LARGELY RESTORED BY THE CANAL SYSTEM. DO NOT FALL INTO THE SAME TRAP BY TAKING THE POLITICAL EXPEDIENT ROUTE*

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO \*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: GRANT THOMAS  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 36 ROCKSIDE DRIVE APT 571  
CITY/CUIDAD: KEY LARGO  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicarán sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información se considerará como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000563

U.S. Air Force  
AFBCA/EX, 1700 N  
Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

13 February 00

Dear Sirs,

At present, I am employed by the AM PAC Corporation representing the Flamingo Lodge. I work at the visitor center at the entrance to the park. Everyday, I am told by visitors from all corners of the earth what a treasure the National Park is. They return time and time again to visit.

During the winter months, the park rangers present a variety of events for the visitors. One of them is called a "swamp Tromp" where the visitors are taken as a group to a cypress dome in the park where they wade out in water up to their knees. It is extremely quiet there and the silence is broken only by the ranger as he or she points out little treasures that form the ecology of the area. Imagine the constant drone of planes flying overhead interrupting the silence the group is enjoying. This is just one simple example why there should be no cargo airport there.

The politicians of both Miami-Dade County and all of Florida should be truthful enough to acknowledge that the airport really does not belong there. They should accept the challenge and do what is right for Homestead. One of the solutions is to make it into a resort area. If so, it should be done under strict guidance and above all, not under control of the Miami-Dade County Commissioners.

If, in fact, the Base is to be turned into a cargo airport, there should be an open bidding for the contract. If not, the Latin Builders Association will once again gain control. This concerns my wife Mitsuko and myself as the contract will be worth billions. The citizens of Dade County do not need a repeat of the Port Authority scandal.

Sincerely,  
Homer K. and Mitsuko Gaffney  
14801 SW 298 Terr  
Homestead, FL 33033-3844

000564

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: Feb 11, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I have spent time in Florida since I was a little girl with my parents. My father loved and was respectful of the outdoors. We went to the Everglades often when we were down here. Now I am retired down in Florida. I take my grandchildren to the Everglades & teach them to respect what Mother Nature has given us. We go snorkeling and have learned to enjoy the boat and enjoy the beautiful things we can see. Please don't let a busy airport into the area - my grand children (who aren't even a spark yet) would never get to see these special things.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINÚE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Joanne Thomas  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 124 Dockside Lane  
CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Se publicarán sus comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000579

007 Andros Road  
Ocean Reef Club  
Key Largo, Florida 33037

2/11/00

Gratias -  
I am definitely opposed to the airport proposed for Homestead air force base -

  
Mrs. Lloyd F. Schumacher

000560

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2-14-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Dear Sirs,

I live 2-3 miles NW of Homestead AFB. I have lived here my entire life. This is an agricultural community, growing the nation's winter vegetables as well as home to many groves and nurseries. This area is in extreme proximity to two national parks as well as a living coral reef. I believe with every ounce of my being that a commercial airport would be devastating to life as I know it. Noise, air and water pollution, & dramatic increase in development and decrease in agriculture due to loss of upland are all the negative, degrading impacts a commercial airport would have.

There is an alternative to developing this property: namely a multi-use plan. The alternative would provide a much needed economic boost to the communities surrounding the AFB without the irreparable damage done by a commercial airport. I implore you to honor convey this property for use as a commercial airport!

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINÚE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Elizabeth Graft  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 23755 SW 142 St.  
CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33032

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000582

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

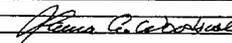
Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: February 14, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Please do not put a big airport at Ft. Gordon Homestead Air Force Base. The Everglades National Park and Biscayne National Park do not need to be threatened by anything else. There are other airports north of here that could be expanded if needed. The idea I heard of a big new modern aquarium sounds wonderful. The Everglades, Biscayne National Park and the Keys are some of the more special environmental areas of our country and the world. Please help protect them.

Thanks!!



\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINÚE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Laura A. Woodside  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 7531 S.W. 137th Street  
CITY/CIUDAD: Miami  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: Fla. 33158

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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

COMMENTS

000595



February 8, 2000

THE COSMETIC, TOILETRY, AND FRAGRANCE ASSOCIATION

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Monroe Street, Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

E. EDWARD KAVANAUGH  
PRESIDENT

Dear Sir:

We urgently need your help to halt the construction of a major commercial airport just a few miles from two national parks. In addition to living in Maryland, I have a home at Ocean Reef in Key Largo, Florida.

Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt, recently stated that the location of the airport would degrade both national parks. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency head, Carol Browner, said she does not believe a commercial airport belongs between any national parks. *The New York Times* and *Miami Herald* editorial boards have both come out against the proposed airport.

We are all gravely concerned about the environmental repercussions of the Air Force's proposed transfer of the Homestead Air Reserve Base in Florida to Miami-Dade County for development of a large commercial airport. Such an airport would dangerously pollute two neighboring national parks, Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park, along with many other protected natural areas in this unique part of the country.

The development of a commercial airport at the Homestead site will cause unacceptable amounts of noise and air pollution. There are alternative proposals to develop the Homestead Base for mixed commercial and residential uses that would be far more compatible with the adjacent national parks, while still providing an economic boost to the local area.

1701 17TH ST., N.W., SUITE 200 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-4702  
202.231.1770 Fax: 202.351.1969  
http://www.ctfa.org  
SECURING THE INDUSTRY'S FUTURE SINCE 1874

Under the Air Force's draft environmental impact study, the commercial airport is estimated to have over 230 annual operations. The result is almost one flight every 2 minutes, over the Everglades, Biscayne National Park as well as the Ocean Reef Community. The commercial airport will result in tons of toxic air emissions every day much of which will be deposited into Biscayne Bay. It would also impact thousands of acres of land and wildlife habitat which will be paved over into industrial and residential sprawl.

The public comment period for the Air Force's draft environmental study closes on March 7, 2000. The Air Force may soon thereafter make it's decision about what alternative it will choose. We urge you to express your concerns to the Air Force and the Clinton Administration regarding the proper use of the Homestead Base. We hope you will speak forcefully in opposition to the proposed commercial airport in support of a more reasonable development project for Homestead, which strikes a balance between needed economic development and preservation of our natural environmental treasures.

In advance, we thank you for your support on this important issue.

Cordially,  
  
E. Edward Kavanaugh  
President



GREEN'S GOURMET GROVES, INC.

10905 Southwest 119 Street  
Miami, Florida 33176  
(305) 248-3070

000604

February 15, 2000

SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, Va. 22209-2809

re: Redevelopment plans for Homestead Air Base

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in favor of the redevelopment of Homestead Air Base as an airport. This is the only plan that can replace jobs that have been lost in this community and also create much needed new businesses. Because this plan considers the needs of this community it will result in the greatest overall benefits to this community, revitalizing South Dade County.

Having been in business in south Dade County since 1982 I have watched the erosion of business opportunities, jobs for residents, and the resulting loss of the tax base of this community. Hurricane Andrew can be credited for major losses in the aforementioned categories. The loss of the major portion of the air force base was and is a tremendous hardship to this community.

The hurricane greatly reduced the amount of agriculture in south Dade County. This was followed by the governments condemnation of agricultural lands near the Everglades to implement the re-plumbing of south Florida. T the same time, substantial losses are being sustained in agriculture and agri-business as a result of government policies that let foreign produce into our country at prices less than our cost of production. The failure of the government to interdict new insects and diseases from abroad that damage our crops has caused additional huge losses. As this litany would suggest agriculture has many problems in this geographic area. The only portion of the industry that is now thriving are the nurseries. Agriculture is in continuous threat of becoming extinct.

Following the hurricane, the federal government constructed large tracts of farm worker housing and supported additional low cost



1  
Carambola (Star Fruit) • Atemoya • Langan • Sugar Apple • Monstera • Wax Jambu

housing. Because of the farming losses, some of this housing is now vacant. As citrus canker progresses and groves are scooped up and burned these vacancies will increase. Other financial disasters that stem from the import of additional crops will likely affect other workers. What will these out of work farm workers do and who will live in the farm workers housing?

Commissioner Kary Sorenson was misguided when she remarked that the airport threatens farmland in South Dade by encouraging industrialization. Farmland is threatened when farmers can't make a living off of farming. The airport will allow farmers to diversify by supplementing their income with offshore produce in addition to their own production and thereby stay in business longer. It will also maintain land value instead of allowing it to fall. Farmers use the monetary value of the land as credit when they borrow money to put in their crops for the year.

In addressing the mixed-use plan being promoted for this base, I have to say that although it is a "pretty plan" it is quite frankly not providing what this community needs. It is unclear as to who will stay in the hotels and play on the golf course. This particular area doesn't have the intrinsic interest that tourists are looking for. Creating an office park would be fine if there were businesses that were interested in locating in this area. So far I don't believe any have been mentioned.

As far as an aquarium is concerned. This is an excellent idea but wouldn't it be better and more logically placed in the Florida City area, a crossroads between the Everglades and the Keys. Here it could feature sea life from both of these climes and is in a path where tourist already travel. Motels and restaurants are already in that area and would benefit from the additional business since the race track is functioning only a small amount of the year.

Would this mix-use plan employ the worker population found in this geographic area? This is very unlikely. Would it generate many additional businesses - also unlikely.

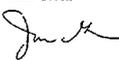
I believe that if the ecological concerns are addressed in the design of the airport that there will be few problems for the ecosystem. There is a tremendous amount of knowledge available on how the impact of an airport can be minimized. This is a chance to improve on what was there when the Air Force used the base for an airport while addressing the real needs of the

2

people. The people are at least as significant a part of the ecosystem as the sparrow or any other creature that we may want to save. Please give us this airport so that we can finally begin to recover from the hand that nature has dealt us.

Sincerely,

Joan Green



3

000607

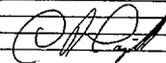
Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/12/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I VERY MUCH OPPOSE THE USE OF HOMESTEAD AIR  
BASE AS A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT. THE USE WILL  
HURT THE BIRDS AND THE ALBATROSS AND EVERY OTHER  
BIRD THAT LIVES IN THE COASTAL WATERS. IT IS A  
BIRD SANCTUARY.



\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: C. F. LANGELO  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 22 CANAL ST  
CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FLA 33037

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Se publicará en los comentarios en el SEIS FINAL. Favor de no incluir su dirección personal si no desea que esta aparezca en el SEIS FINAL. El hecho de proporcionar esta información es considerado como su consentimiento para publicarla.

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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000612

2-4-2000

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is Dr. Charles T. Witherell and I am a resident of the City of Homestead, FL. I SUPPORT a commercial airport at Homestead Air Reserve Base.

An airport in Homestead is necessary to build a strong economy in our area and provide jobs and income to people.

The SEIS report confirms that the airport is environmentally sound and will not hurt the parks so development of this project should proceed. There is no reason to wait any longer. We need this development now.

Sincerely,



2-4-2000

000613

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is Dr. Karen Witherell and I am a resident of the City of Homestead, FL. I SUPPORT a commercial airport at Homestead Air Reserve Base.

An airport in Homestead is necessary to build a strong economy in our area and provide jobs and income to people.

The SEIS report confirms that the airport is environmentally sound and will not hurt the parks so development of this project should proceed. There is no reason to wait any longer. We need this development now.

Sincerely,



**COMMENTS**

000620

6886 S.W. 88th Street  
Unit #D-406  
Miami, FL 33156

February 14, 2000

Homestead Draft SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Sir:

Robert Stanton, Director of the National Park Service, has said, "Natural sounds are part of the special places we preserve. Rustling winds in the canyons and the rush of waters in the rivers are the heartbeat and breath of some of our most valuable resources." We all know that living next to an airport produces noise pollution. The development of a commercial airport in Homestead which is 1.5 miles away from two National Parks is unthinkable. In the wild, sound is a matter of life and death. Birds, insects, mammals, and amphibians rely on complex communication networks to live and reproduce. In habitats where wildlife vocalizations signify mating calls, danger from predators, or territorial claims, hearing these sounds is essential to animal survival. Research in bioacoustics is an important tool for defining the health of natural habitats. I support the "No Action alternative" in the Draft SEIS.

Sincerely,

*William Patterson*  
William Patterson

February 11, 2000

000621

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington VA 22209-2802

I am writing to express to you my opposition to the Air Force's plan to transfer former Homestead Air Reserve Base to Dade county for development into a major international airport.

This airport would have unthinkable consequences for the adjacent Everglades and Biscayne national parks. The Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and the Florida Keys are irreplaceable parts of America's natural history far too important to be destroyed for an airport.

I urge you to follow the advice of Interior Secretary Babbitt and the EPA, as well as many fellow Americans and abandon this plan as quickly as possible.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

*Penny Clanton*  
Penny Clanton  
1504 Eagle Drive  
Fort Worth, Texas 76111-4928

000622

ADAMS, COOGLER, WATSON, MERKEL,  
BARRY & KELLNER, P.A.

ALEX D. BAKER  
JOHN C. BARNETT  
JAMES C. BARRY  
STEPHANIE BROWN  
PETER W. COOGLER  
PAUL L. HANWOOD  
THOMAS HODGE  
PATRICIA A. JUDGE  
CATHERINE L. KATZ  
ROD W. KALLNER  
DOREEN G. KAPTEL  
CATHERINE M. PARR  
KATHERINE L. THORNE  
SCOTT S. WARBURTON  
BOB E. WATSON  
MEL S. WEINER  
\* BARRY & KELLNER (P.O. BOX 1000)

LAWYERS  
REPUBLIC SECURITY BANK TOWER  
SUITE 1600  
1535 PALM BEACH LAKES BOULEVARD  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33411

TELEPHONE (407) 478-4300  
TOLL FREE (800) 833-3207  
FACSIMILE (407) 478-7346  
F.O. BOX 2088  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33402-2088  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: ACCOMLA@AOL.COM

TANIEL H. ADAMS  
STEPHEN J.

OF COUNSEL  
MONICA A. COOGLER, JR.  
L.C. SHIFFRIN, JR.

ADMINISTRATOR  
SUSAN L. JEFFRIES

PARALEGAL  
MICHELLE BARNETT

PARALEGAL  
KELLY M. MULLIN

February 14, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a resident of Palm Beach County and a member of the Ocean Reef Club which is located in the northern end of the island of Key Largo in the Florida Keys, I am gravely concerned about a proposal to turn Homestead Air Force Base into a large commercial airport. Needless to say, with the several hundred proposed flights in and out of the airport a day, many tons of toxic air emissions will be released on a daily basis into Biscayne Bay and two adjacent national parks and the Everglades water containment facility which provides drinking water to all of South Florida.

It is beyond my imagination how the Federal government can be spending billions of dollars to clean up the Everglades in terms of water pollution, yet have the Department of Air Force propose converting the Homestead Reserve Air Force Base into a commercial airport which will create substantially more air and ground water pollution. Essentially, we have two arms of the government working in complete opposite directions, both creating hundreds of millions of additional charges to the tax-paying public.

There is absolutely no reason for this commercial airport to be installed. I strongly urge that everything be done to cancel this foolish program.

Sincerely,

*Robert G. Merkel*  
ROBERT G. MERKEL  
RGM/osd/ac/apo  
Enclosure

000637

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-11-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE  
to Whom It May Concern:

*It is beyond my comprehension that any one would consider putting a commercial/cargo airport so close to a nuclear plant!*

*Major air disasters were few and far between at HAFB. But who could compare favorably the maintenance on cargo planes bound for profit and the Air Force maintenance schedule. Do not delude the public with stats on the safety record of the cargo planes - particularly from foreign countries.*

*Also we the public are well aware that not all the buildings which house nuclear waste are crash proof. Don't let greed destroy the people AND*

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Cora Mazzacanti*

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *18551 SW 204 ST*

CITY/CIUDAD: *Miami*

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *FL 33187*

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1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

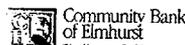
beauty of South Florida.  
 There is AN ALTERNATE PLAN which would provide jobs without a MAJOR threat to our safety. PLEASE do not endorse this Commercial Airport for Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Thank you,

CORA MAZZAGATTI  
 (Cora Mazzagatti)  
 18551 SW 204th St  
 Miami, FL  
 33187

25 year resident of South Dade

→ This location is approximately 10 miles NE of the nuclear plant.



000649

William C. Gook, Jr.  
 President & CEO

181 W. Elmhurst Rd. at Spring Rd.  
 Elmhurst, IL 60120  
 http://www.elmhurst.com/ce

(630)721-1124  
 Fax (630)721-1124  
 EMail: drc@elmhurst.com

February 16, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 North Moore Street  
 Suite 2300  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear SEIS Contact,

My wife and I have been homeowners at the northern end of Key Largo, Florida at the Ocean Reef Club for 22 years. I have never seen our community so united in our opposition as it is to the Air Force proposal to transfer the Homestead Air Reserve Base into a large commercial airport.

The draft study shows 600 flights a day of all size planes, including jumbo jets, which is clearly unacceptable. From a noise and pollution standpoint, it would be horrendous. However, the primary reason this should never happen is the environment. In addition to the damage to the Keys, this airport would inflict irreparable harm to the Biscayne National Park (1 1/2 miles away) and the Everglades National Park (8 1/2 miles away).

There are several alternative options that would have a dynamic positive effect without decimating the environment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*William Clark J.*

WCG/njb

CC: Vice President Al Gore, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington DC  
 Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, 1849 C St. N. W., Washington DC 20240  
 Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301  
 Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters, 1670 Air Force Peniagon, Washington DC 20330  
 Senator Peter G. Fitzgerald, Senate Dirksen Building 555, Washington DC 20510  
 U. S. Representative Henry J. Hyde, 2110 Rayburn HOB, Washington DC 20515

000655

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
 Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
 Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb 15, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Dear Sirs:

Please do not allow the construction of an airport for cargo at the current Homestead Air Force Base site.  
 We are very concerned about the negative impact this will have on our fragile eco system. From our Everglades to the Atlantic Ocean and fauna, construction will have a devastating affect. Concerns include air pollution, ground seepage, pollution, trash and animal and bird kills. Perhaps the real impact will not be realized for a number of years, long after the damage has been done. Then, it's too late.  
 Please consider another alternative that will still have a positive impact on the area's economy but will not leave the long term, irreparable repercussions that we would have with an airport.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: CHARLES E. ROEDER  
 ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 175 SE 25th St #2C  
 CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI  
 STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33129

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Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
 FAX: 703-696-8828

000657

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
 Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
 Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-15-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

- 1) I am 7th YEARS OLD - BORN & RAISED IN MIAMI - THIS IS THE LAST FARM I WOULD WANT TO HAVE - LEAVE IT ALONE -
- 2) CONTRACT WAS AWARDED TO HARDI ILLEGALLY - NO OTHER BIDDERS -
- 3) CONTRACT GET SET HOLD FOR JOBS WE NOW HAVE IN HOMESTEAD - WHY DO WE NEED "3000 MORE JOBS"???
- 4) PLEASE DO NOT LET COUNTY TAKE OVER THE AIRPORT !!!

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Gloria E. Williams  
 ADDRESS/DIRECCION:  
 CITY/CUIDAD:  
 STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 to:  
 Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
 AFBCA/EX  
 1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
 Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
 FAX: 703-696-8828

COMMENTS

000659

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Heritage for Homestead Drain SEIS - Actividades Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input.  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: Feb 15, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/AVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Se Agradecido

Blank lines for writing comments.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DOSSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOOMBRE: James Westbrook y Milind Sharma  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 200 Ocean Lane Drive #149  
CITY/CUIDAD: Key Biscayne FL 33149  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO/ZONA POSTAL: FL 33149

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Providing this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Favor de entregar esta forma a ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AERON/EX  
1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2300  
Aurora, FL 32803  
PHONE: 703-696-5828  
FAX: 703-696-5828

David T. Park  
3714 Lake Park  
Kissimmee, Florida  
34747-2800 Fax: 888-587-4481  
dtpark02@aol.com

February 15, 2000

000650

Homestead SEIS  
AERCA  
1700 Moore Street  
Aurora, VA 22309-2802

Comments:

I write to protest the inconceivable plan to turn the former Homestead Air Force Base into a commercial airport. The real estate interest who propose this and to whom the County will turn over the property are short-sighted, and greedy.

The plan for the commercial airport is the creation of jobs. There has been little discussion of the impact on the environment. The plan is to build a large airport and destroy the possibility of more jobs for future generations.

The Collier Hoover plan is the best of our good choices.

I hope you will look into this further and see for yourselves it would truly be wrong and harmful to many people now and those to come. I believe if you do so you will find it worth going to a major effort to prevent this.

Yours very truly  
David Park

Final SEIS

W-136

W want to express my opposition to building a new airport in South Florida near two National Parks. 2 miles from Biscayne National Park and 10 miles from Everglades National Park.

Our two National Parks are precious resources in an area that, as you know, is already overbuilt. To the north of the proposed airport, the Everglades has been badly encroached upon, resulting in the destruction of irreplaceable habitat. We have also not taken good care of Biscayne National Park. We can't further undermine these unique, irreplaceable resources.

Some of the specific reasons for our opposing the proposed airport are as follows:  
At capacity, the airport would bring 251,000 flights a year, that's about one operation every 10 seconds.

Because of conflicts with FAA's airports to the north, planes will have to be routed over the proposed airport and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and remain at lower altitudes longer than might otherwise be the case. Biscayne National Park will be particularly hard hit by noise impact because of its proximity to the proposed international airport. The FAA estimates that the proposed airport will generate 2000 and 4000 tons of noise over the 2000 and 4000 ton, over the Biscayne National Park Visitors Center.

At this distance, the commercial jets will sound like a loud lawn mower 3 feet away or a New York City subway train. Even as far out in the park as Elliot Key, the jet will sound like the equivalent of a garbage disposal.

The proposed airport will increase nutrient pollution into Biscayne Bay, even though the Bay, a classified Outstanding Florida Water, is already showing the ill effects of the current level of fish pollution.

While polluted surface water discharges will increase, relatively clean groundwater flows to Biscayne Bay will decrease. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has generally and restoration efforts intended to decrease discharge out of the Everglades.

The airport will significantly increase inputs into the Bay both of the hazardous air pollutant polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which is unregulated in aircraft emissions, and of ammonium, which is toxic to marine life.

Development associated with the airport will result in the development of thousands of acres of agricultural land and wildlife habitat.

The proposed airport will increase local air pollution, resulting in the daily emissions of 7 million tons of particulate matter. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection estimates nitrogen oxide levels are estimated to increase 48 times in Biscayne National Park and 45 times in Everglades National Park.

Thank you.

James Westbrook and Milind Sharma  
200 Ocean Lane Drive #149  
Key Biscayne, Florida, 33149

000652

03.16.00

We want to give our opinion on the airport for Homestead. We do not want it, not only because of the environment, but also because the birds will be affected. We have lived in Homestead since 1976 and know what it will do when the birds are there. We agree that we are not 100% sure of the plan, but we get the idea. No airport! The airport will not make Homestead a better place. Please consider I now tell you No to the airport.

Thank you  
Caleb, Bob Smith  
1800 SW 905 Av  
Homestead, FL 33130

000669

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: Feb 7, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I vehemently object to the proposal for a commercial cargo airport in Homestead. The damage to the environment & to the Everglades would be devastating but also, the alternatives suit the purpose much better.

\*\*\*CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE\*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Jazetta Watts  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: Blough in Cay Rt. 14.1 A  
CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Homestead SEIS  
AFPCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000665

Robert B. Swindell  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
February 16, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFPCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear SEIS Contact:

I am writing because of my deep concern over the proposed transfer of the Homestead Air Reserve Base in Florida to Miami-Dade County for development of a large commercial airport. I am a homeowner in the Ocean Reef Community and on the northern end of the island of Key Largo in the Florida Keys.

According to a study I have read, this would be the closest States and more to two national parks anywhere in the United States and would be a major threat to the Everglades. I am over our house and over these fragile ecosystems. I can just imagine the noise over the Everglades and Biscayne National Park.

I urge you to seriously consider the alternative proposal for this land, which is a wise use of residential and commercial lands which would not damage this fragile land, and also provide jobs to the people living here.

This would preserve the unique characteristics of these parks. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,  
*Robert B. Swindell*

Mrs. Robert B. Swindell  
cc: J.P. Al Gore  
Sec. Bruce Babbitt  
Rep. Bill Clinton  
A.P. S.C. P. W. Peters

000670

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2-2-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Please NO Airport.  
More study needs to be done.

\*\*\*CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE\*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Mary Alice Kelly  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 2915 S. Palmetto Rd.  
CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo, FL 33057  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Homestead SEIS  
AFPCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000671

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: Feb 7 '00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Please NO airport - consider:  
John Pankowsky state park which was not even mentioned in the SEIS and

More acceptable jobs available soon in Collier plan

\*\*\*CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE\*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA M4S ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Sarah S. Gephart  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION:  
CITY/CIUDAD:  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000N72

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: 2-7-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*I support the airport - but fear the other side.*

NAME/NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/CUANDO: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUA AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

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AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2902  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000N74

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: 2-7-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*Please do not put an airport in  
Honestead.  
My alternative for the rest damage  
Possibly the Valley pass is better.*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Blair Risch*  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *84 Spokan Dr. #1848*  
CITY/CUANDO: *Key Charge FL*  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *33037*

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUA AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

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FAX: 703-696-8828

000N73

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: Feb 7, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*PLEASE - FIND AN ALTERNATE TO  
THE PROPOSED AIRPORT*

NAME/NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/CUANDO: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUA AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

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Arlington, VA 22209-2902  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000N75

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Publicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participacion

DATE/TIEMPO: 2/1/2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*Please do not put an airport  
in the area.*

NAME/NOMBRE: *Bobbi Borelli*  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *475 Alameda Ave # 483*  
CITY/CUANDO: *Key Brgs FL*  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *33037*

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUA AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

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Arlington, VA 22209-2902  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000676

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2-9-2002

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I wish to express my strong opposition  
to the development of an airport at Homestead  
Air Force Base - C  
I believe other plans would provide the jobs for  
Homestead without the serious detrimental  
effects on the Everglades and surrounding  
environment -

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Mrs. Michele Capen  
ADDRESS/DIRECCI3N: 5 Spring Rd.  
CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL

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Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

000677

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2/1/02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Please no Airport - Consider  
John Pennkamp State Park which  
was not mentioned in the SEIS and  
more appropriate jobs available  
sooner in Collier plan

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Peter Morici  
ADDRESS/DIRECCI3N:  
CITY/CIUDAD:  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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000678

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2-9-02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I strongly oppose the airport  
in Homestead. It will put the  
environment of the Everglades  
at Biscayne Bay.  
I support the  
Collier - Hoover  
proposal.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: T. M. Terrell  
ADDRESS/DIRECCI3N: 6000 SW  
CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000679

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHA: 2-10-2002

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I oppose the HROBI Homestead Airport  
development due to the detrimental impact on  
the environment. The Everglades is a unique  
part of the community. As a school teacher, I  
am always encouraging my students to protect  
the environment. The HROBI Homestead Airport  
development would cause extreme water and noise pollution  
debating the quest for protection.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Cindy Donaco  
ADDRESS/DIRECCI3N:  
CITY/CIUDAD:  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828



000706

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb. 19, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

From what I see, there was such a large body representing North Dade and Broward... public hearings for Homestead draft SEIS, and that hearings were held in Homestead... since seemed to facilitate more convenient access for those more numerous... perhaps that our elected official Penellas, who's office was designed to serve the populace... interview will be reaping the benefits of his real estate involvement in the Homestead airport... those he 'serves' will be suffering consequences of a myriad of economic, social, and environ... falter? Assuming (and this will be a stretch of any imagination) that everything goes on br... closed doors is legal, and in our best interests as officials see it, I'd simply point out... commercialization of the Homestead airport will be anything but beneficial to us.

It seems that the primary argument of the airport's supporters involves its economic con... bring to Homestead. They point out the economic tribulations we've faced here since... through stories about our unemployment problem and promise us 38,000 jobs should the a... expanded. Very well, except that their unemployment rate is the lowest it's been in over a decade... was at its highest in 1992 directly prior to the hurricane when the Homestead surface base... operation and has decreased steadily to the rate it was in Sept. of 1999 (when my wife... assuming that the airport is built, and 38,000 jobs do become available in the South Dade... of them are we to actually expect to get? No less than a third will be gone by the time the... the airport is completed, and we are not so naive as to believe that the majority of those... not go to out of area workers who will move down with their families to complete the... (I'm more of our agricultural area for the building of residences. While less food is be... greater population, Penellas is capitalizing on the property exchange.)

Think also of the social ramifications this airport, and the people who follow... traffic jams, noise and pollution of the highways which will necessarily spring up in acco... of migrants and cargo continuing to and from the airport outside our doors. What can... offer when our daily routines is interrupted every two moments for the angry drone of a...?

All pales though when juxtaposed to the environmental repercussions of the past... supporters of the airport claim that the environmental impact of the new airport will have... Technologies will be utilized and the facility designed to minimize jetclash and noise... and docks. Fine. That's lovely. Native but lovely. What are they going to do to modify... to protect the brackish aquifer, (designated our sole source of drinking water in so... Florida Dept. of environmental regulations) from further contamination from the... would be crammed with vehicles associated with the airport? What will protect B... (I'm sure to some of the last coral reefs in the world) from the continual discharge... rivers produced by the high temperature engines? What regulations will prevent the... inherently associated with an ambitious commercial endeavor from contributing to... already threatened ecosystems which has drawn visitors to South Florida... The everglades, one of the final refuges of the Bald Eagle, which the Colonel and... monkey so proudly wear upon their uniforms, has been an economic boon and a haven to b... Though intensely linked, I've divided my arguments for simplicity of use... not be built because the social and economic costs will be far greater than the... economic gain suggest, and altogether greater than we are willing to afford.

000708

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb 8, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Dear Sirs,  
I was born and raised in the area  
surrounding Homestead AFB. I farm and  
visit and use the National Parks nearby  
and strongly believe a commercial airport  
would have a disastrous effect on my  
quality of life.  
There are other alternatives to a commercial  
airport that will benefit the economy of  
the surrounding communities without  
the adverse effects of noise air and  
water pollution. I also believe a commercial  
airport would encourage development and  
loss of agricultural land.

CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE  
CONTINÚE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO

NAME/NOMBRE: James Grabe

ADDRESS/DIRECCION:

CITY/CIUDAD:

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Please hand this form in or MAIL BEFORE March 7, 2000 in:  
Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 a:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000709

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/4/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF HOMESTEAD FOR  
20YRS AND WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THIS GREAT  
DA TO THE EFFECT OF THE ENVIRONMENT. I DO  
AND HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT FISHING AND HUNTING  
IN THE AREA AS LONG AS MY RESIDENT I THINK  
YOU FOR YOUR TIME

CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE  
CONTINÚE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO

NAME/NOMBRE: William Dale Brannen

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: P.O. Box 901172 Homestead FL 33090

CITY/CIUDAD:

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

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Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000716

B. J. Daermer  
28 Angelfish Cay Drive  
Key Largo, FL 33037

February 1, 2000

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Dear SEIS Contact:

I am a member of the Ocean Reef Club, which is located on the northern end of the island of Key Largo in the Florida Keys. All of us at Ocean Reef are gravely concerned about the environmental destruction that will most surely be caused by the Air Force's proposed transfer of the Homestead Air Reserve Base in Florida to Miami-Dade County for development of a large commercial airport. We strongly believe that the development of a commercial airport at the Homestead site will cause unacceptable amounts of noise and air pollution to this area.

The alternative proposals for the development of the Homestead base include a mixed commercial and residential plan that would be far more compatible with the adjacent national parks, while still providing an economic boost to the local area. Also, there appears to be alternative sites for development of additional commercial airport capacity in South Florida.

We urge you to consider the alternatives to the commercial airport option so we may preserve the unique environmental treasure of the Biscayne and Everglades National Parks.

In advance, we thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

James

I WRITE OF BEHALF OF MYSELF,  
MY CHILDREN, MY GRANDCHILDREN &  
MY GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN. I AM 64  
YOU MUST THINK OF EFFECT ON  
SUCCESSOR'S GENERATIONS



000721

assets does not inspire confidence that such a valuable property will be managed in the public's interest.

A few months ago, there was a County referendum on an attempt to improve public transportation in Miami-Dade by imposing a one cent sales tax increase. Most people in the County voted "no" because they were concerned that the County's demand for the County's safety to properly and honestly manage runs so deep that it was county...

The recent Grand Jury accused dummy and outrage at the County's management and contracting practices. The port scandal, where the Port of Miami was openly "sold" for years as a personal fiefdom, where buildings were constructed without permits and contracts were awarded to favored contractors, is just another example of the county's continued padding of the budget (which had to be made up by the sale of the county's Miami International Airport) where made it a subject of ridicule and a source of embarrassment for the county.

Further evidence of the County's negligence and complete disregard for the interests of the citizens and taxpayers, is the County's failure to properly manage the airport. The fact that they have the legal authority to make such arrangements with an organization that has refused to even produce a financial statement should be of concern to us all and a call "would any governmental organization be allowed to operate in such a manner as to neglect the interests of its taxpayers, or even hoping to avoid the perception of impropriety, consider engaging in such inappropriate behavior?"

Thank you,

*Robert S. Anderson*  
Robert S. Anderson

000722

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input.  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/TIEMPO: 9/23/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*This is not the air here to be provided by a company that has never been able to provide it. I have been to the site and I have seen the air. It is not good. It is not clean. It is not safe. It is not healthy. It is not what we need. It is not what we want. It is not what we deserve. It is not what we should have. It is not what we are entitled to. It is not what we are owed. It is not what we are entitled to. It is not what we are owed. It is not what we are entitled to. It is not what we are owed.*

NAME/NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/CUADRA: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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Homestead SEIS  
AFRICA/DEX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAC: 703-696-8828

000723

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input.  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/TIEMPO: 10/2/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

*This is not the air here to be provided by a company that has never been able to provide it. I have been to the site and I have seen the air. It is not good. It is not clean. It is not safe. It is not healthy. It is not what we need. It is not what we want. It is not what we deserve. It is not what we should have. It is not what we are entitled to. It is not what we are owed. It is not what we are entitled to. It is not what we are owed.*

NAME/NOMBRE: *King G. Smith*  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: *4 Hawk Road*  
CITY/CUADRA: *Key Bayside 33037*  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: *Florida 33037*

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COMMENTS

000729

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHEA: 02/08/02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I strongly oppose the ABOLISHMENT OF THE  
TWO PART HUNTING BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
AGENCY. I support the 11th Circuit Environmental  
Agency who has tried to protect the environment  
and create jobs.

NAME/NOMBRE: James Lee Adams

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 41 Island Dr

CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO \*\*\*

000731

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHEA: February 9, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I'm asking you to spare us from having a commercial air port in Homestead Florida. As a former Q. Inman, I moved to Ocean Breeze in Key Largo because it was still a fresh air place. The trail lives in Homestead and enjoys the same fresh air that I had at the Miami Airport surrounding area. To see what happens to living conditions around an airport don't look at Ocean Breeze. You will find that the jobs that are lost will suffer and will be replaced by a new airport. These jobs have a less health atmosphere. Please consider yourself a little piece of the environment. It is heavily this site is a more beautiful development. It is the place that the developer will not give up. The Florida and the Bahama had the use of the area for crops and environmental enjoyment. Start a ride around I-15 through Big Cypress Swamp will show how what is happening down here. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Shirley Kelly

NAME/NOMBRE: Shirley D. Kelly

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 24 Jackson Lane PMB 3

CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo, Florida

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO \*\*\*

000730

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHEA: 02/08/02

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE  
TWO PART HUNTING BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
AGENCY. I support the 11th Circuit Environmental  
Agency who has tried to protect the environment  
and create jobs.

NAME/NOMBRE: James Lee Adams

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 41 Island Dr

CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo, FL

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO \*\*\*

000734

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participaci3n

DATE/FECHEA: 2-8-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

My husband and I have been married about the world  
of Homestead Florida and we married in (Spain). I could go  
into detail -- but you know about that from many sources.  
I will include a few of that with each -- showing our reasons.  
This needs to be heard and accepted -- especially to us  
the things of the world, especially  
Please consider the convenience of our Earth when you answer  
don't be angry

NAME/NOMBRE: Leanne M. Gilbert

ADDRESS/DIRECCION:

CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO \*\*\*



COMMENTS

000737

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-7-00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

I am shocked and appalled by the  
under headed HARBOR - Airforce arrangement.  
There are preferable development alternatives  
which should be carefully considered.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: R.P. Swenson  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 35 Island Dr  
CITY/CIUDAD: Key Largo  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

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000738

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/6/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

THE AIRPORT WILL DESTROY  
THE PALM BEACH THE TOURISM  
WILL DECLINE AND THEN THERE  
WILL BE A LOSS OF POSITIONS.

PLEASE DO THE COLLIER-  
HOOPER PLAN WHICH IS A  
WIN-WIN SITUATION!  
NO AIRPORT!!

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: NATASHA PRICE  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 4 HALFWAY RD  
CITY/CIUDAD: KEY LARGO, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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000739

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/7/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

NO AIRPORT!! THE FLIGHTS  
WILL CHASE THE BIRDS AND  
HURT THE ENVIRONMENT.  
THE COLLIER-HOOPER PLAN  
IS A WIN-WIN SITUATION.  
THIS WILL BRING JOBS TO  
THE AREA AND SAVE THE  
ENVIRONMENT

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: LORNE PRICE  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 4 HALFWAY RD  
CITY/CIUDAD: KEY LARGO, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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000740

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Pùblicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2/6/00

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

WHY ARE YOU KILLING THE  
REEF, FISH, BIRDS, AND EFFECTING  
HUMAN HEALTH WITH THE AIRPORT?

PLEASE DO THE COLLIER-  
HOOPER PLAN WHICH IS A  
WIN-WIN SITUATION!  
NO AIRPORT!!

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÀS ESPACIO\*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: NATASHA PRICE  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 4 HALFWAY RD  
CITY/CIUDAD: KEY LARGO, FL  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: 33037

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FAX: 703-696-8828

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St. Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802 000741

My husband and I attended the first Air Force presentation regarding the proposed future use of the Homestead Air Force Base as a major commercial airport. We were dismayed to find that the first two hours of public debate was outstandingly dominated by politicians from the Miami- South Dade communities, who were determined to ingratiate themselves with their potential voters. It was not until very late in the meeting that opponents of the proposal were given an opportunity to voice their opinions. (At this time many of the audience had already left) With few exceptions they were met with rude behavior by the obviously organized opponents. The intelligent comments made by Katy Sorenson, David Ritz and Pete Shields were given short shrift by the organized opposition. It is for this reason that we are writing to you with our comments regarding the proposed use of the airport.

The literature prepared by Donald J. Barry, Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife Parks in his letter to Mr. Curry delineates the many environmental reasons that the SEIS proposal is not acceptable. The economic impact of such a use portends an even more compelling reason to reject such a use. The destruction of a way of life in order to satisfy the greedy developers who support this proposal is even more egregious.

It seems absolutely ridiculous for THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SET ASIDE SOME EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS TO RESTORE THE EVERGLADES and then give the Airport to Commercial users. The argument given by SEIS that this proposed development would not negatively affect the Everglades is patently false to any intelligent reader and I vigorously suggest that Congress and the Executive reject such a use.

The impact that 100 per day low altitude flights over TURKEY POINT could have is a nightmare too horrendous to contemplate. The local populations might well consider that they are considered EXPENDABLE by the developers who propose this use for a cargo airport at the site.

Sincerely,

*Maryellen Kraus*

Maryellen Kraus  
16 Harbour House  
Key Largo, FL

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead 000742

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación DATE/FECHA: Feb 6, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

IN BOTH THE LONG AND THE SHORT RUN, THE COLLIER-HOOVER MIXED-USE PROPOSAL IS FAR BETTER THAN A COMMERCIAL AIR PORT. CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIR PORT WOULD RESULT IN A LARGE INFLUX OF SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WORKERS AND CONSIDERABLE STIMULUS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. UPON COMPLETION THE HIGHER PAYING JOBS WOULD BE FILLED LARGELY FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA, LEAVING THE LOWER PAYING, LESS SKILLED JOBS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS. THE GROWTH IN POPULATION AND THE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE AIRPORT WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE OVER ALL ATTRACTIVENESS OF THIS AREA. TOURISM, AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESSES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, LANDSCAPING AND MARKETING OF MID- AND UP-SCALE HOUSING WOULD ALL SUFFER. THE COLLIER-HOOVER PROPOSAL WOULD RESULT IN JOBS SOONER AND INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME THAN THE AIRPORT. COLLIER-HOOVER DOESN'T SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS, BUT IT'S FAR BETTER FOR THIS AREA THAN AN AIRPORT.

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\*CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: RICHARD E. HECKERT

ADDRESS/DIRECCION:

CITY/CIUDAD:

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL KEY LARGO, FL 33037

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1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

From: Peck Pope  
15320 SW 256 Street  
Homestead, Florida 33032 000743

To: U.S. Air Force, AFBCA / EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802

Re. No to Development of a commercial airport in Homestead

Our family has lived in the Homestead area for about twenty years and we love the slow paced agricultural setting. An airport would destroy what the residents of the area love most - the distance from urban Miami. An airport benefits not the residents, but developers who want to make money. It will bring congestion, noise, and fith. When I worked near the Miami International Airport and had to park on base, the paint of my newly bought car wore down within a year. What would an airport do to our environmentally sensitive area? It is a potential instrument of destruction for the upper Keys. Many residents of the area depend on the tourist business from visitors to our parks. New jobs would bring in new residents, solving employment problems elsewhere at our expense. Residents east of US1 have to buy additional flood insurance to protect themselves in the event of a hurricane storm surge. Does it make sense to build an airport within a flood zone?

Development of a commercial airport in Homestead will change us forever. We find that prospect highly undesirable.

Yours truly,

*Peck Pope*  
Peck Pope

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito 000744  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación DATE/FECHA: Feb 6, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

As a resident of Homestead, Fla., I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposal to grant Dade Co. the to convert the Homestead Air Force base into a commercial airport. A commercial (expanding) airport would destroy the only remaining rural/agricultural community in South Fla. Additionally, the noise pollution and the resulting (typical) overdevelopment that plagues Broward and Miami-Dade counties would result in a disastrous future for our area. Finally, and most importantly, the conversion of the Homestead Air Force base should not be allowed to become another political platform for a provenly corrupt group of local politicians. The Miami Airport is wrought with political abuse of taxpayer's dollars, mis-appropriated funds and criminal investigations. Please do not allow political greed to destroy the only agricultural and natural environment left in So. Fla. A commercial airport would result in the destruction of a valuable national park - Biscayne Nat'l Park + Pargladas Nat'l Park. To think it would not is foolishness.

A mixed-use alternative as proposed by the Holmes/Collier families is, without a doubt, in the best interest of the people who live here and remain devoted to our community.

\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MAS ESPACIO \*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Leslie Neal

ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 30805 SW 214 Ave.

CITY/CIUDAD: Homestead, Florida

STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL 33030

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Preving this informatios will be considered consent to publish it.

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Favor de entregar esta forma o ENVIARLA POR CORREO ANTES de 7 de marzo del 2000 is:

Homestead SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828



000749

February 3, 2000

Dear U.S. Air Force personnels,

I have recently learned that an airplane-base is going to be built in Homestead, Florida. I strongly think that this thought should be abolished due to the fact that we have taken enough from the Everglades and from our Mother Nature. Why is it that we, as a Society, have to be so selfish and not care about the animals and plants of the wilderness? It is time to give back to the Everglades and care about the future of the nature in Florida. Give it a thought and don't neglect what was here before you! Thank you for your time.

Yours Truly,  
Cindy Suarez  
(Cindy Suarez, Floridian Student)

000750

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb. 3, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

BT - I HAVE READ THE DEC 1999 SEIS STATEMENT. I SUPPORT THE MULTI USE ALTERNATIVE FOR THE REMAINING ACRES AT HAERB. A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST FOR OUR REDLAND AGRICULTURE DISTRICT. WE ARE IN AGRICULTURE AS MOST ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY. THIS REPORT DOES NOT ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF A SECOND MAJOR RUNWAY OVER OUR AREA, NOR OUR EPA NUCLEAR FACILITY NOR THE FURTHER DEGRADATION & POLLUTION OF OUR WATER SUPPLIES OF WHICH WE DRINK) NOR THE MAJOR CRUSH OF ADDED TRAFFIC ON OUR COUNTRY ROADS. PART OF THE CITIZENRY BELIEVE THEY WILL RECEIVE JOBS - THEY HAVE BEEN THIS. YOU HAVE TO BE QUALIFIED AS A WORK FORCE & MANY SO DADE RESIDENTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN THESE JOBS. SO THIS IS NOT AN EMPLOYMENT SOLUTION. WE MAY VERY WELL NEED THE BASE AGAIN FOR SECURITY REASONS, SO THE AIR FORCE SHOULD KEEP A

\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*  
\*\*\* CONTINÚE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO \*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: MRS. COLLEEN GREEN  
ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: 1460 SW 200 ST.  
CITY/CIUDAD: MIAMI  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL. 33177

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

000751

Mariela Hidalgo  
15290 Grant Lane  
Leisure, FL 33033  
February 5, 2000

Homestead SEIS, AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington Va 22209-2809

Dear Sir:

I am writing about an issue that directly affects my family and many others. We live in Leisure City, only a few blocks from the Homestead Air Force Base. Thirteen years ago, we bought a home and moved into this area. There were two main reasons for doing so: (1. to be closer to my sister and 2. to find an affordable and nice place to call home). We were fortunate on both accounts. There is always much said and written about those who left South Dade after Andrew. Little however is mentioned about those of us who stayed, stayed to rebuild our homes and community. It has been a long and tedious process, but not only have we rebounded from the devastating hurricane of '92; we're definitely better. Going through town one can't help but be impressed with the new businesses that have sprouted. The new Walmart in Ft. City is a mammoth supercenter store that has brought thousands of employment opportunities to the people here. Along downtown Homestead a facelift has transpired, where once a pedestrian was a rare sight; now there's a lot of foot traffic checking out the antique stores, restaurants; and cultural scene. Let us not forget the stadiums to the South that draw many racing enthusiasts every year. These are but a few examples that show our community is financially healthy. Could it be better? Yes, it could but hopefully not at the cost of a fragile environment. With the Everglades and Biscayne Bay nearby; it is not sound judgement to put an airport in between the two. The fuel-run off, noise pollution, and the threat to various species of animal life; can someone please explain where is the common sense in that? To those who say an airport is the only way of bringing more dollars into this community, I strongly disagree. There are far better ways: A perfect example would be turning the Base into a full-fledge park. One similar to Tropical Park on S.W. 40th St., but with a golf course, along with a restaurant facility and or concession stands. There could also be tennis courts and batting cages. This place if it existed would easily lure people of all ages to it. Why?, because there's nothing like it around here and more importantly; it would not be as harmful to our natural resources. Imagine the millions of folks who come from around the world to visit the beautiful

STRONG PRESENCE AT THE BASE & COMBINED WITH THE MULTI USE ALTERNATIVE PLUS COAST GUARD, SOUTHERN MILITARY COMMAND AND OTHER SAFER ENDEAVORS MAKE MORE SENSE. THIS WILL PROVIDE DIFFERENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES, BETTER NEIGHBORS FOR OUR TWO PARKS & OUR MILLIONS TO BILLION DOLLAR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

THANK YOU.

P.S. LASTLY, OUR AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY IS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF PESTS & DISEASES VIA AN AIRPORT AMIDST OUR AREA.

COMMENTS

Mariela Hidalgo  
15290 Grant Lane  
Leisure, FL 33033  
February 5, 2000

Everglades that Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrote about or the eye appealing Biscayne Bay waters. Would they continue to come if the quality and quantity of plant and animal life they expected to see deteriorated and eventually disappeared? Of course they wouldn't, which would mean an inconceivable loss of vital tourist dollars for the state of Florida. It bears noting that while writing about this issue, I also want to stress that we who live in deep South Dade already have a dangerous neighbor. Its name is none other than the Turkey Point Nuclear Powerplant. Don't we have enough to worry about without adding an airport to the equation that in the long run will only be more detrimental than beneficial? Please take this letter to heart and not let savvy politicians and businessmen sway the Air Force's chance to do right by the people and land of South Dade.

Sincerely,  
Mariela Hidalgo  
Mariela Hidalgo

000752

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: Feb 8, 2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

The building of a commercial airport would destroy the wildlife in Card Sound and Biscayne Bay. The noise alone would be deafening not to mention the run-off from the airports polluting the waters.  
No one has ever mentioned Turkey Point Power Plant and its proximity to proposed commercial flights - that presents a grave danger in case of an accident.  
The Collier-Horner proposal would create safe jobs for the environment and keep the Homestead area people friendly too - No sky collisions - and the residents would keep their wildlife and water for recreational uses for themselves and tourists too.  
Also, everyone in Homestead who has watched very hard to win property - jobs are key to make county survive but not self-destructive commercial airports!!

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO \*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: Mrs. Sandra E. Pershing  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 35 Harbor House  
CITY/CUIDAD: North Key Largo  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL: FL 33037

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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AFBCA/EX  
1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
Arlington, VA 22209-2802  
FAX: 703-696-8828

LEAH LA PLANTE  
WRITER • EDITOR 000753

Miami  
February 2000

US Air Force  
Homestead SEIS

How does the proposed plan to build an airport close to the Everglades fit in with all the efforts to restore and preserve this precious natural/national treasure?

Please save the Everglades (and nearby Biscayne National Park).

Don't allow the Homestead commercial airport to be built.

Birds and planes don't mix!

Sincerely, (hopefully),  
Leah La Plante

7798 SW 99 STREET • MIAMI, FL 33156 • (809) 271-9781 • leahlaplane@earthlink.net

000759

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homestead Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input  
Gracias por su participación

DATE/FECHA: 2-4-2000

PLEASE PRINT/FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

Hi, I want to support a mix use alternative for Homestead Air Force base. Our community needs more employment opportunity, but this can also be achieved with other alternatives. The air port is going to bring more contamination of the area, noise pollution and the jobs that will mostly be taken with will be highly skilled people within the the cause of aviation.

Homestead Area is one that is unique. We have two national parks on a side - the other. This is the only place of the united states to have this characteristic. Still, every thing they have constructed does a few things / more pollution that brings employment. How many people from Homestead work in the power plant? Not only that, the local fill holds every other trash but we get the smell and the ammonia that leaks in to the bay.  
Yes, I fill we need jobs. But we need good quality of life to go along with it.

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* CONTINUE AL DORSO PARA MÁS ESPACIO \*\*\*\*

NAME/NOMBRE: I had Crespo  
ADDRESS/DIRECCION: 27110 SW 142 Ave  
CITY/CUIDAD: Homestead, FL 33032  
STATE, ZIP CODE/ESTADO, ZONA POSTAL:

Comments will be published in the Final SEIS. Please do not include personal address if you would object to seeing it in the Final SEIS. Proving this information will be considered consent to publish it.

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1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300  
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FAX: 703-696-8828

000759

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito

Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

DATE/TIEMPO: 2/5/00

Thank you for your input

Gracias por su participacion

PLEASE PRINT/AVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE



000760

Please do not support or allow a commercial airport at Homestead. The impact on the adjacent Everglades would be unacceptable.

Many of us are encouraged about the thorn/clin

abundant proposal. I strongly urge you to explain it thoroughly.

Shirley Affron

Comments: 1-313 Orange Street, Suite 411 - West Palm Beach, Florida 33411 - 941-834-2424

Comments: 1-313 Orange Street, Suite 411 - West Palm Beach, Florida 33411 - 941-834-2424

Comments: 1-313 Orange Street, Suite 411 - West Palm Beach, Florida 33411 - 941-834-2424

000762

Written Comment Sheet - Hoja para Comentarios por Escrito

Public Hearing for Homestead Drain SEIS - Audiencia Publica para el Borrador SEIS de Homestead

Thank you for your input

Gracias por su participacion

PLEASE PRINT/AVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

000763

Feb. 5, 2000

Dear Mr. President:

As a resident of South Dade County, I bid for 41 years I fear for our quality of life if the former Homestead Air Force Base is turned into a regional airport with many daily flights. Even now we hear planes from Miami International over 20 miles away, flying routes to the Caribbean. They are high and the noise is distant. Years ago when H. A. F. Base was a SAC Base we were seldom bothered by the large bombers (B-52's) or later the fighters as their flights were infrequent and over the Bay.

The Collier Resources Co. and Hoover Environmental Group offers a plan that protects our National Parks, the Environment, and the residents peace of mind! It will also provide jobs in the construction industry and later in the operation of their facilities. It is also more tourist friendly. Our National Parks as well as the Florida Keys draw many

- 1 -

- 2 -

tourists and seasonal residents to our area. Noisy low flying planes will discourage this valuable economic resource.

I enclose an article about the hearing, from the Miami Herald, my husband and I attended on this matter. Our County Commissioner Katy Sorenson is one of the few politicians taking into account our concerns. She has opposed the County Government's plan since its inception and supports the mixed use plan of the Collier/ Hoover Group.

We will appreciate your getting involved with this important issue.

C.C. AIR FORCE  
HOMESTEAD SEIS

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Margolin  
(305) 235-8938

M. J. MARGOLIN  
20536 ISLAND Rd.  
MIAMI, Fla. 33158-2401

## Opposite sides speak their minds on air base plan

BY DANIEL MARTINEZ

Selected officials, business people, activists and ordinary folks gathered by the hundreds Tuesday at the first public hearing to speak their minds about how to redevelop the former Homestead Air Force Base.

The throng of 600-plus people packed South Dade Senior High School's auditorium to capacity, and passions flowed high in all directions.

The major proposals would put an airport or a mixed-use development on the land. Earlier Tuesday, the Department of Interior indicated a preference for the mixed-use plan, and Miami-Dade County's economic-development agency stated a preference for the airport.

"We have an opportunity to close an unfortunate chapter in Miami-Dade history," said County Commissioner Katy Sorenson, who opposes the airport plan. The mixed-use proposal would include an office park, a golf course, hotels and an aquarium attraction.

"An airport threatens farmland in South Dade by encouraging industrialization. It drives tourism by polluting the skies above Biscayne Na-

tional Park. And the mixed-use plan takes the politics of this decision out of Miami-Dade County," Sorenson said. (D. Martinez/Staff Writer, T-1)

The Air Force, which is conducting the hearings as part of its decision-making process, called for elected officials to offer testimony first. Sorenson was the first anti-airport speaker Tuesday, after Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas led a series of eight speakers who favored an airport, mostly for its greater economic prospects.

"The decisions made about this (potential) reliever airport will impact the quality of life through Miami-Dade County for decades to come," Penelas said. "I can't overemphasize the importance of this site for future air service. And Miami International Airport will reach full flight capacity between 2006 and 2015."

"This is about a promise made to the people of Homestead who were suffering in 1992 after Hurricane Andrew," added Hialeah Mayor Raul Martinez. "There can be a compromise — you can find a solution that balances the economy and the environment."

In the hours leading up to the hearing, proponents and opponents of each plan waved post-

### IMPACT HEARINGS

Public hearings on the environmental impact of redevelopment plans for the former Homestead Air Force Base continue today in Kendall.

Two sessions will be held at Signature Gardens, 12725 SW 122nd Ave. The first begins with an open house at 11 a.m. followed by a hearing at 12:30 p.m. The second starts at 5:30 p.m. with a hearing at 7. During the hearing, speakers will be asked to limit their comments to three minutes.

During the open house, officials from the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration and consultants who prepared a report on possible environmental impacts of a proposed commercial airport and alternative development plans will be available to answer questions.

The last two hearings are set for Thursday at Renaissance Ballroom, 5510 SW Eighth St., in Miami. First open house is at 11 a.m. with a hearing at 12:30 p.m. The second open house is at 5:30 p.m. with a hearing at 7.

The Air Force will also accept written comments until March 7. They can be mailed to Homestead SEIS, AFBCA/EX, 1700 N. Moore St., Suite 2300, Arlington, Va. 22209-2809. Fax: 703-986-8828.

ers, banged drums and chanted slogans. One group implored, "Save our parks," while the other used the same tones to state, "We want jobs."

"The people here need jobs, and the national parks will not be harmed by an airport," said Danny de la Vega, 17, of Miami. "If there was an air base before without problems, why not an airport now?"

Courtness Tamara Newman, 26, of Miami, "If an airport happens next to the Everglades, it's devastating a unique ecosystem made by our land. If the decision-makers would go to the Everglades and see it for themselves, they'd realize what a mistake this would be."

Earlier Tuesday, Donald J. Barry, assistant secretary for the federal Department of Interior, issued a letter formalizing the department's preference for the mixed-use plan.

Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt had previously announced his opposition to a commercial airport, without specifying a preferred alternative.

"The department believes the mixed-use alternative is the preferred approach to achieve the stated goal for the disposal of this property, and urges the Air Force to adopt it," Barry wrote in the 11-page letter. The Air Force's stated goals are economic revitalization for South Dade, while protecting the national parks.

The Bracco Council, the county government's economic development arm, recommended the airport. The city governments of Homestead, Florida City and Hialeah have passed resolutions calling for the airport option as well.

DATE: 02/06/00

FROM: IGNACIO MEDRANO-CARBO  
660 N.E. 56TH STREET  
MIAMI, FLA. 33137

TO: U.S. AIR FORCE  
HOMESTEAD SEIS  
AFBCA/EX  
1700 NORTH MOORE STREET  
SUITE 2300  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, 22209-2802

000764

To Whom It May Concern:

Good Day. I'll cut to the chase. I am deeply concerned about even the slightest possibility of converting the former Homestead Air Force Base into a commercial airport. I truly hope sober humanist minds prevail.

Almost since the beginning of its development, South Florida, unfortunately, has attracted and continues to attract, along with a majority of good eggs, a slew of fast-buck, ethically bankrupt, ecology ravaging profiteers.

It doesn't take a gifted mind to figure out that a commercial airport that is estimated to produce seven tons a day of toxic air emissions not to mention the noise pollution of 250,000 operations daily, could be anything but threatening to a marine sanctuary, Biscayne National Park, only two miles away, and only ten miles away the Everglades National Park, whose southernmost boundary is a vital estuarine womb.

A mixed commercial and residential use for the property appears, at this moment, to be an unquestionably more benign alternative. Offering better preservation of the natural environment while at the same time new jobs.

I have been Dade County resident since May of 1960 and a registered voter since 1980 and would presently like to register my opposition to the plan to convert the former Homestead Air Force Base into a commercial airport. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ignacio Medrano-Carbo



**COMMENTS**

not favorable economically to Duval County. Nonetheless, the mixed use plan offers economic revitalization of South Florida while protecting our parks, which if affected, will be gone forever. Respectfully, I submit to you my request that the AdForce support the mixed use plan.

000771

Writes Comment Sheet - Boja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homebased Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homebased

Thank you for your input.  
Gracias por su participación.

DATE/TIEMPO: 2-19-00

PLEASE PRINT/AVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

NAME/ NOMBRE: LUIS SUAREZ

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI

STATE/ESTADO: FL

ZIP CODE/ESTADO: 33134

ADDRESS/ DIRECCION: 1000 N. ALHAMBRA BLVD

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI

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ZIP CODE/ESTADO: 33134

000772

Writes Comment Sheet - Boja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homebased Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homebased

Thank you for your input.  
Gracias por su participación.

DATE/TIEMPO: 2/19/2000

PLEASE PRINT/AVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

NAME/ NOMBRE: Carvin A. Walker

CITY/CUIDAD: Florida City, FL

STATE/ESTADO: FL

ZIP CODE/ESTADO: 33134

ADDRESS/ DIRECCION: 1000 N. ALHAMBRA BLVD

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI

STATE/ESTADO: FL

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000773

Writes Comment Sheet - Boja para Comentarios por Escrito  
Public Hearings for Homebased Draft SEIS - Audiencias Públicas para el Borrador SEIS de Homebased

Thank you for your input.  
Gracias por su participación.

DATE/TIEMPO: 2/18/00

PLEASE PRINT/AVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE

NAME/ NOMBRE: Shavon Davis

CITY/CUIDAD: FL City

STATE/ESTADO: FL

ZIP CODE/ESTADO: 33134

ADDRESS/ DIRECCION: 1000 N. ALHAMBRA BLVD

CITY/CUIDAD: MIAMI

STATE/ESTADO: FL

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