

## ML Donovan

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**From:** The Twin Towers Alliance [rebuild@twintowersalliance.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2009 1:26 PM  
**To:** 'brian.miller@gsa.gov'  
**Cc:** 'anthony.costa@gsa.gov'  
**Subject:** Taxpayer Opposition to the "Freedom Tower"

Dear Inspector Miller,

The Twin Towers Alliance is a grassroots organization that is leading the worldwide campaign for new Twin Towers. Since June of 2007, we have been asking the Congress of the United States to recognize that the General Services Administration pledge to occupy 415,000 sq. feet in the "Freedom Tower" is in direct contravention of the will of the American people.

Given the GSA commitment to "exercise responsible asset management" and to providing "best value for taxpayers and our federal customers" we would like to point out that both the public and the markets have rejected the building from the first. If market forces had been allowed to operate, it would have been canceled long ago. What the GSA did, with its ill-advised pledge, was to underwrite a building, and thereby a project, that would otherwise have had no future.

On the other hand, there is a fully developed design that would heal the New York skyline and the national spirit with the familiar silhouette of the Twin Towers. These would be 21<sup>st</sup>-century, state-of-the-art mixed use towers that could easily become the hottest property on the planet. A number of knowledgeable and influential professionals have recognized the clear superiority of the plan. Under no circumstances would the change result in setting the clock back. Efforts to mischaracterize it are dishonest.

There is a direct pathway to this alternative, which, including the transition, would save billions of dollars over currently projected costs and shave years off the prevailing forecast. But even if it cost more and took longer, it would no doubt be worth it in the eyes of most Americans. It's not a complicated matter. On February 26, 1993, a bomb exploded in the WTC Garage. It was positioned in the hope that it would send Tower One crashing into Tower Two, destroying them both. The diabolical fixation that *Al Qaeda* had with bringing those towers down makes their resurrection a national imperative.

Anyone who disagrees with that statement, should have the courage of their convictions. We do not believe that they would be able to win the heart and minds of their countrymen and women. *But let them try.* To just ignore what the rest of us believe is right, putting us in a position of kowtowing to our enemies, and to do it with our tax dollars, is utterly corrupt and indefensible. A recent MSNBC online poll showed that almost 90% of more than 1300 respondents want to scrap the "Freedom Tower" and build new Twin Towers. It is a matter of national honor and it is a matter of national heart.

As recently as last August, it was widely recognized that no real progress had been made at the site. In September, we met with the head of the Port Authority and gave him information on an alternative that would honor the will of the people, while, due to its efficiency, saving both time and money. At that point, it became incumbent on the publicly chartered agency to do the due diligence required to assess our assertions. Instead, the Port Authority put the development on the fast-track.

So now they think to use 100 feet of steel and some initial progress on their plans for a transit hub and memorial to insist that it's too late to do what the people want and the country deserves – but they can't back that up. What's more, the exorbitant, deeply flawed memorial is despised by many 9/11 families and leaves the public cold. And none of it could have been foisted on the American people without the GSA pledge. Without that, the Port Authority would not have been able to invest in procurements and contracts – but we contend that much of that can still be converted.

We petitioned Congress to look into our grievances a full two years ago. Now Mr. Silverstein, whose balance sheet needs to be scrutinized, wants the Port Authority to use more public funds to backstop the loans for two of his three towers. But, *the project was a bust during the boom*. The banks won't finance it because of a dismal market showing that goes back years. For the Port Authority and Silverstein Properties to claim that the project is just another casualty of the economic turbulence is baloney.

What has been perpetrated on the public at Ground Zero is at least as big a swindle as the banks and insurance companies – more so, because this was the one place where our government should have shown the utmost respect. But, on the bright side, this is the one instance where correcting course would give an immediate, profound boost to the country's morale and result in a lasting tribute to the American character.

We hope that having more of the facts will influence your decisions going forward. We are preparing a submission to Congress that we will copy you in on. This notification will become part of that record. We may send you supporting information in the interim. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

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**Rebuild the Twin Towers!**  
*The World is Watching...*