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## United States Senate

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**August 3, 2012**

**Mr. Rocco Siciliano  
Chairman  
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission  
1629 K Street, N.W., Suite 801  
Washington, D.C. 20006**

**Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:**

**On July 25, 2012, I had the pleasure of meeting with Susan and Anne Eisenhower, to discuss their concerns regarding the memorial to their grandfather, President Dwight D. Eisenhower. I was informed that the Eisenhower family members are unified in their position and that both Susan and Anne serve as spokespersons for the family. Simply put, Susan and Anne have asked for a delay in moving forward on the Memorial, as they want to give the process a fresh new start. They are opposed to the current design and asked for an open competition on a new design. The family is seeking a memorial that is powerful but simple, and portrays President Eisenhower in a manner of humility, self-sacrifice, and leadership. As many of you know, Susan and Anne are not in favor of portraying the President as a young boy, and the most contentious item to them is the metal tapestry, which they want removed from the current design.**

**At the last Commission meeting, we all agreed to move forward with the current and revised design and in support of designer, Frank Gehry. I understand that the Commission is tentatively looking to make a presentation of the Memorial's revised design to the Commission on Fine Arts on September 20th, and to the National Capital Planning Commission on October 4th. I would hate to stop the process and lose the momentum, especially since a lot of time, money, and effort has been expended on this Memorial. For the record, I informed Susan and Anne that I wanted to see this Memorial come to fruition.**

**However, given the continued opposition with the Eisenhower family, I question whether we can ever resolve the differences between the Commission and the Eisenhower family, and whether it would be in our best interest to continue to move forward. In my view, to ignore the family's opposition, would only compound the**

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**mistrust and strained relationship the family has against the Commission and, in particular, with the Commission staff. It could even slow our own internal processes.**

**I wanted to give you all a report of my meeting with Susan and Anne Eisenhower. I am not sure what the best approach should be at this point in time, and welcome any thoughts you may have to this dilemma.**

**Aloha,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Inouye', with a long vertical flourish extending downwards from the end of the signature.

**DANIEL K. INOUE**  
**United States Senator**

**DKI:mcb**

**cc: The Honorable Jack Reed**  
**The Honorable Pat Roberts**  
**The Honorable Jerry Moran**  
**The Honorable Leonard L. Boswell**  
**The Honorable William Thornberry**  
**The Honorable Mike Simpson**  
**The Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.**  
**Mr. Alfred Geduldig**  
**Ms. Susan Banes Harris**