

September 12, 2006

Mr. Dennis J. FitzSimons
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Members of the Board of Directors
Tribune Company
435 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. FitzSimons and Members of the Board of Directors:

We are writing to urge the Tribune Company to continue to keep the Los Angeles Times a vibrant paper of local, state, national and international importance, and to resist economic pressures to make additional cuts which could remove it from the top ranks of American journalism. As civic leaders in Los Angeles, we are particularly concerned about the effect that such cuts could have on our community.

During the second half of the 20th Century, the Times lifted itself to become a paper of national and even global stature. Many observers consider it one of the five most important daily papers in the country. To some extent, that record of success has continued under Tribune ownership, as evidenced by the numerous Pulitzer Prizes it has earned during the past few years. We hope – but we are concerned – that the paper will continue to improve and to build on that record.

We are keenly aware that the newspaper business is going through a difficult period, and we don't want to be unrealistic. Nevertheless, we have watched with concern as our newspaper has repeatedly reduced the size of its staff, cut the space given to news, and declined in circulation. It puts matters into perspective, but is of little comfort, to know that such cuts are taking place elsewhere, as well.

Of course, we expect nothing less than tight cost management from any company, but only up to a point. Newspapers, in our view, have a special public trust, a responsibility to serve the community while making a reasonable profit. Since it was acquired by the Tribune Company in 2000, the Times newsroom staff has been cut by at least 200 journalists; the amount of space devoted to news has been substantially reduced by over 70 pages per week, and the business side has been cut dramatically. A couple of years ago, the company reported that it had cut \$130 million out of yearly operating costs at the paper – and there have been additional cuts since then.

Recently, we have read that Tribune plans to cut \$200 million more from its newspapers. We fear that the Times may be in the process of making additional cuts – which will make the paper markedly less valuable to its readers, its advertisers and our community.

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All newspapers serve an important civic role, but as a community voice in the metropolitan region, the *Los Angeles Times* is irreplaceable. We are not quite sure this is fully understood by those outside our community. The *Los Angeles Times* has a unique ability and responsibility to unify as well as educate what is a very geographically fractured and otherwise extraordinarily diverse community.

At various times many of us have met with *Los Angeles Times* representatives to urge more thorough and consistent coverage of the Greater Los Angeles community. We have been assured that the Times was most committed in this regard, as well as committed to remaining one of the Nation's great newspapers. But we remain concerned.

What is required here for our region to function well is more – not less – news coverage, particularly of the civic, political and cultural life of the region. The *Los Angeles Times* simply cannot be allowed to shrink to the point that it becomes just another newspaper. We are not structured like many traditional cities where influence may be more centralized, but rather operate within a complex network of business, government, community and philanthropic organizations and individuals. The civic education of this unusually diverse community is every bit as important as the traditional K-12 and higher education of our children in fostering the health and welfare of the region.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge the Tribune Company to make an even larger investment in the Times and to resist the financial pressures to make cuts that would harm the paper and, in the process, harm our region. If, on the other hand, the Tribune Company believes this is not economically feasible given its own financial goals, perhaps a different mode of ownership would better serve Los Angeles.


Many of us would be pleased to meet with you to discuss these concerns more directly if you believe that would be helpful. All organizations listed below are for identification purposes only.



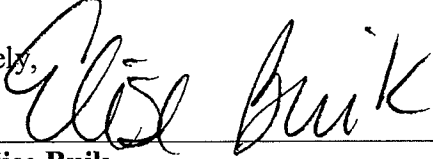
Edward J. Avila
President, Alliance For A Better Community



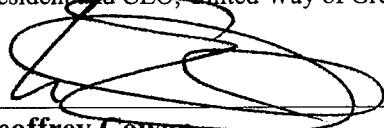
Warren Christopher



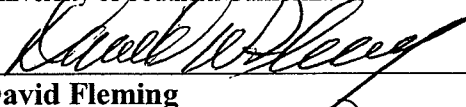
Maria Elena Durazo
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles County
Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

Sincerely, 

Elise Buik
President and CEO, United Way of Greater Los Angeles



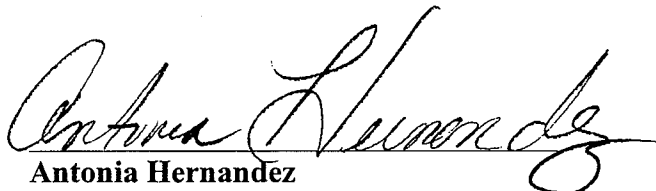
Geoffrey Cowan
Dean, Annenberg School for Communication,
University of Southern California



David Fleming
Past Chair, Los Angeles County Economic
Development Corporation



Ronald Gastelum
Past CEO, The Metropolitan Water District of
Southern California



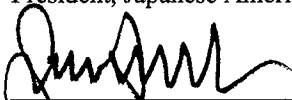
Antonia Hernandez
President and CEO, California Community Foundation



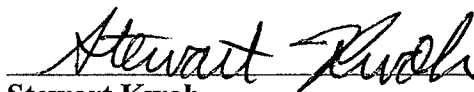
Irene Hirano
President, Japanese American National Museum



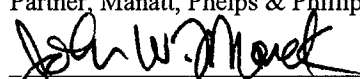
Brendan Huffman
President, Valley Industry and Commerce Association



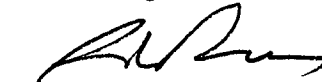
George Kieffer
Chair, Civic Alliance
Past Chair, City of Los Angeles Charter Reform Comm.
Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP



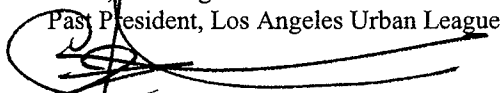
Stewart Kwoh
President and Executive Director, Asian Pacific
American Legal Center



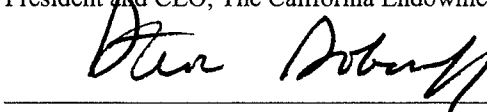
John Mack
Chair, Los Angeles Police Commission
Past President, Los Angeles Urban League



Robert K. Ross, M.D.
President and CEO, The California Endowment



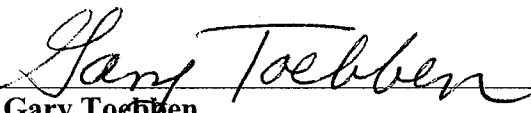
Robert Simonds
Film Producer



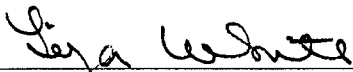
Steven L. Soboroff
President, Playa Vista



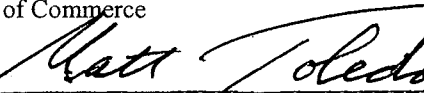
Blair H. Taylor
President and CEO, Los Angeles Urban League



Gary Toebben
President and CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber
of Commerce



Liza White
President, League of Women Voters of Los Angeles



Matt Toledo
President and Publisher, Los Angeles
Business Journal

cc: Tribune Company, Board of Directors:
Mr. Jeffrey Chandler
Mr. Roger Goodan
Mr. Enrique Hernandez, Jr.
Ms. Betsy D. Holden
Mr. Robert S. Morrison
Mr. William A. Osborn
Mr. J. Christopher Reyes

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Mr. William Stinehart, Jr.
Mr. Dudley S. Taft
Mr. Miles D. White

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