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March 2, 2004

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator  
1 Post Street, Suite 2450  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The City Council of Los Altos, California, has unanimously voted to convey to you our concerns that the Patriot Act, P.L. 107-56, requires our City to take actions that erode the constitutional rights of the very people we are sworn to serve and protect.

We are troubled that the powers granted to law enforcement authorities by the Patriot Act are too broad, lack judicial oversight, and are thus subject to misuse. Of particular concern Sections 215 and 219 require us to provide the Federal government with records without a warrant and to assist with secret searches.

We are troubled that our citizens, as well as legal residents and visitors, have lost some of the protections of the Fourth Amendment, and that First Amendment rights are being inhibited by fear of being incorrectly categorized as terrorist supporters.

None of us should lose sight of the fact that over the past 228 years many true patriots have given their lives to defend the protections afforded by the Bill of Rights. We should not give up these rights easily.

We ask that you work to correct the constitutional encroachments in the Patriot Act as soon as possible.

Respectfully yours,

John Moss  
Mayor

cc: David Casas, Mayor Pro Tem  
Curtis Cole, Councilmember  
King Lear, Councilmember  
Ron Packard, Councilmember