



February 2, 2015

Mr. Timo Latikka
Executive Director
Finnish Aeronautical Association
Helsinki-Malmi Airport
00700 Helsinki
Finland

Dear Mr. Latikka,

World Monuments Fund would like to endorse and support the campaign to preserve and protect the Helsinki-Malmi Airport, a rare surviving example of an international airport from the pioneering era of commercial aviation that has been in continuous use since its construction in the 1930s.

Following the decision to use the airport area for construction of housing, the Helsinki-Malmi Airport was included on the World Monuments Watch in 2004 and 2006 to lend support to efforts for its protection. The World Monuments Watch is World Monuments Fund's main advocacy program, and it represents a call to action for cultural heritage places around the world that are at risk from the impact of social, political, and economic change. After being nominated by the Friends of Malmi Airport, the site was included on the 2004 World Monuments Watch, among 100 of the world's most endangered historic and cultural treasures, many of which are no longer at risk.

Since then, we have frequently been heartened by the substantial coverage that the plans to close Helsinki-Malmi have received in the news media. In 2009, we celebrated the decision of the Finnish Board of Antiquities to expand the designation of the airport to encompass the entire site, including the runways, as a built cultural environment of national significance. Now, we would like to add our voice to the tens of thousands of concerned citizens from Finland and all over the world who have signed a petition for the preservation of Helsinki-Malmi Airport "as an active airfield of great historic, architectural, and functional value."

We hope that a solution that allows Helsinki to plan for accommodating its growing population while keeping the Helsinki-Malmi Airport in use can be reached in the coming months. We understand that the historic buildings and runways are not in

imminent danger of deterioration, and the infrastructure needed to ensure the airport's continued use remains in good condition.

The current vision for the airport would represent a loss to Finland's general aviation community and to cultural legacy of the country. Preserving Helsinki-Malmi Airport as the home of aviation clubs and commercial pilot schools, a popular destination for hobbyists and other enthusiasts, as well as a venue for public events, is an important opportunity to benefit all citizens of Helsinki.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Burnham".

Bonnie Burnham
President
World Monuments Fund