

November 20, 2004- Save the Anaheim Angels!

The following letter was sent to the editors of the Orange County Register and the Los Angeles Times. Signatories included: Reps. Loretta Sanchez; Chris Cox; Ken Calvert; Gary Miller; Dana Rohrabacher and Ed Royce from Orange County and Reps. Xavier Bacerra; Howard Berman; Jane Harman; Buck McKeon; Grace Napolitano; Lucille Royball-Allard; Linda Sanchez; Adam Schiff; Diane Watson and Henry Waxman from Los Angeles County.

Dear Editor:

It's not often that Los Angeles and Orange counties see eye-to-eye. But today, we are in total agreement on one thing: Saving the Anaheim Angels.

Regardless of which county we call home, we oppose the current proposal to change the name of Orange County's baseball team to the Los Angeles Angels. In 1996, the Angels and the City of Anaheim made an agreement, and naming the team the Anaheim Angels was part of that agreement. To change the name would not only be a breach of faith with the people of Anaheim and all Angels fans, it would be a breach of contract.

Legal contracts are important, but there is something bigger in jeopardy. There is something in a name—identity, pride, a sense of belonging, a sense of community. Orange County residents have come to love their Anaheim Angels. The "Big A" is one of the jewels in Anaheim's crown, and is the site of great civic pride as the location of the team's World Series Championship victory in 2002.

At the same time, Dodgers fans aren't eager to share the city's name. Since 1957 when the Dodgers took up residence in the Southland, they have been known by the L.A. name. And Angelenos aim to keep it that way.

Both the Anaheim and Los Angeles City Councils are against the name change and have passed resolutions to that effect. Fans have made the call: The Angels are safe at home in Anaheim. We urge the owners of the Anaheim Angels to take this into consideration when they make their final decision.

Sincerely,

Members of the Orange County and Los Angeles County Delegations
U.S. House of Representatives