

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/17/02 EDO CONTROL: G20020249
DOC DT: 03/06/02
FINAL REPLY:

Representative Jo Ann Davis

TO:

Rathbun, OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 02-0297

Travers, EDO

DESC: ROUTING:

Siting and Relocating Federal Offices in
Virginia's First Congressional District

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr

DATE: 04/25/02

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
ADM Springer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

JO ANN DAVIS
FIRST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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March 6, 2002

Mr. Dennis K. Rathbun
Executive Assistant, Office of the Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

I am writing to inform you about the advantages of siting and relocating federal offices in Virginia's First Congressional District, which I represent in Congress. As you may know, the First District includes Fredericksburg and areas south and east of Fredericksburg including the rural Northern Neck. Despite its rural character, the First District is conveniently located close to the D.C. metro area. In fact, many federal employees commute to work in Washington from the area.

The Rural Development Act (RDA) requires all federal executive departments and agencies to establish policies and procedures giving first priority to the location of new offices and other facilities in rural areas. As the housing costs in the metro D.C. area continue to grow at an enormous rate, forcing more and more federal workers and their families to live further from their jobs, the First District presents an attractive alternative location for federal offices. Siting federal agencies in the First District would provide both opportunities for RDA compliance and would give federal employees the prospect of living and working in a non-urban environment with a reasonable cost of living.

In addition to offering lower office real estate and housing costs, travel to Washington remains manageable, with Interstate 95 and Highway 301 providing north-south corridors. Employees needing to conference with counterparts in Washington offices could use the daily Virginia Railway Express that links Fredericksburg and Washington, as well as the high occupancy vehicle lanes. Moreover, Highways 3 and 17 provide east-west thoroughfares into the Northern Neck from Fredericksburg.

As you may know, in July of last year the General Accounting Office issued a report entitled "Facilities Location: Agencies Should Pay More Attention to Costs and Rural Development Act." The study found in part that "federal agencies continue to locate for the most part in higher cost, urban areas. Eight of the 13 cabinet agencies surveyed had no formal RDA siting policy, and there was little evidence that agencies considered RDA's requirements when

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siting new federal facilities.” The GAO’s survey of federal facilities showed that “for about 73% of the 113 responding sites, respondents said either they did not use RDA in site acquisitions or they did not know whether it was used.”

The First District, including the Northern Neck, is uniquely situated to provide sites for federal agency relocation, enabling federal agencies to comply with the RDA and yet remain close to the Cabinet offices in metro Washington. The Northern Neck Planning District, which serves the counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland, seeks to attract federal agencies to its member counties, and would be willing to assist with relocation and siting needs. You may contact the Executive Director of the Planning District, Jerry Davis, at 804-333-1900 to discuss your potential needs.

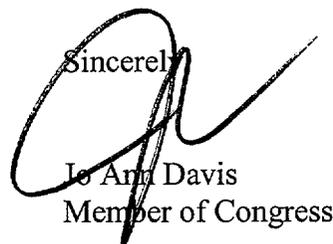
In addition to the Northern Neck Planning District, I would urge you to contact the Rappahannock Area Development Commission (RADCO) about your agency needs, as well. RADCO represents the City of Fredericksburg and the Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford, which are all also within close proximity of metro Washington. The Executive Director for RADCO is Stephen H. Manster, and he may be reached by telephone at (540) 373-2890.

Other regions of the First Congressional District also offer advantages for the relocation of federal offices, and my office would be glad to provide you information about their particular strengths.

I also request that your staff contact Vaughn Murphy in my office at 225-4261 to discuss your department’s current policies for RDA compliance, and to inform us what information you may need regarding siting and relocating offices to the First District.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and I look forward to your response.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Jerry Davis
Member of Congress

JAD:vm