

Dr. Coy H. Poitevint
P. O. Box 1269
Dothan, AL 36302

December 16, 2003

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint
Washington, DC 20555

Dear: P. T. Kuo

I would like to express my support in renewing the license for 20 additional years at Plant Farley in Columbia, Alabama. I know that Plant Farley is definitely an asset to Houston County. I have practiced veterinarian medicine since 1943 and seen the benefits from the plant. It supports the economy with 900+ jobs and presently \$8 million in tax revenue. I provide housing to several of the contractors that work outages at Plant Farley and I hear them discuss their jobs. I hear only positive comments from the employees and the public as well. Plant Farley supports various community activities and emphasizes safety first. We appreciate the consideration of renewing the license for Plant Farley and look forward to seeing continuous growth from the plant. I hope to see the plant expand and provide energy to more territory than it does at present.

Sincerely


DR. COY H. POITEVINT
Veterinarian


MRS. LOUISE POITEVINT

Cc: Charles R. Pierce
License Renewal Project Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

A099

Imperialism of a different kind

"Eco-Imperialism" is the name of Paul Driessen's book, and unsurprisingly enough, it is the subject of the book as well — the way in which environmental extremists of rich, developed countries have foisted their ecological standards onto the people of poor countries.

The consequence is to help poverty stay put, to afford starving people less hope for rescue, to stand back from helping when thousands upon thousands are killed by disease, to abet in the deaths of the world's least powerful people.

Driessen, a long-term Washington hand who has worked in the Senate and Department of the Interior as well as for advocacy groups and think tanks, was once a true-believing, organization-joining environmentalist himself. Then he noticed something. The movement had become ideologically frozen, too often unwilling to consider fresh evidence and "insensitive" about the lives of billions.

I myself have been writing about some of Driessen's themes for several years now, ever since I first became aware that a kind of intellectual zaniness was responsible for terrible suffering in this world and that it was not easy to find people speaking out on the side of sanity.

Washington is filled to bursting with hearts that bleed at even the hint that someone somewhere might not have been treated well, but many of these same people just don't care 2 cents about this issue, which is very big and very real. The reason, I think, is that they would then have to concede that some of their prejudices are just that — prejudices. They would have to let go of a political correctness they hold dear.

Driessen is not likewise tethered as he takes on the nonsense some greenies dish out, such as the precautionary principle that "holds that companies should halt any activities that might threaten human health or the environment, even if no clear cause-and-effect relationship has been established, and even if the potential threat is largely theoretical."

The environmentalists, he says, seek either tough restrictions or an outright ban of a new technology "until it is proven to be absolutely safe." What is given "short shrift," he says, is the "improved safety" that could be achieved by the technology. There is no consideration of "opportunities foregone." A result, he says, is the thwarting of "risk-taking, innovation, economic growth, scientific and tech-

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Inhabitants of sub-Saharan Africa are paying a big price for this principle. The Sierra Club and Greenpeace are among the groups that have fought with success to stymie biotechnology experiments that could ultimately do much to feed those inhabitants while aiding economies and even helping to protect the environment. In one widely reported incident, Driessen reminds us, the president of

Zambia refused to allow his starving people to eat biotech corn supplied by the U.S. government. The corn is safe; we Americans have eaten plenty of it with no digestive difficulty. But for a period, the Zambia president was more impressed with the superstitions voiced by

environmental groups and protectionist-minded representatives of the European Union.

Driessen explores a number of other issues, such as the opposition to using the highly effective chemical DDT to combat the malaria that kills some 2 million people a year in sub-Saharan Africa. When sprayed inside homes, the risk to the environment is something on the order of zero, and the risk to people about the same, he reminds

us. South Africa, he also reminds us, had reduced its malaria to under 10,000 cases a year with DDT, then discontinued its use, watching as cases went up to 62,000. The number dropped again to 10,000 when DDT was brought back to fight the disease.

My hope is that the Driessen book (published by Merril Press, P.O. Box 1682, Bellevue, Wash. 98009), along with work being done at a number of think tanks and by some other groups, will help wake more people up to how the good intentions of some extreme envi-

ronmentalists have been paving the way to something hellish for many in the Third World.

Contact Jay Ambrose at [Ambrose\(at\)SHNS.com](mailto:Ambrose(at)SHNS.com).
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Jay Ambrose
Scripps Howard
News Service

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Dothan gets top ranking in Alabama

7/2

Annual economic index puts city 32nd among 96 small U.S. metros

By DEBBIE INGRAM SMITH
Eagle Business Editor

Dothan topped the list among all Alabama metropolitan areas in terms of best economically performing cities in 2003.

The Circle City is ranked 32nd on the Milken Institute Best Performing Cities Index of the 96 smallest metros.

"We came out on top from a state standpoint," Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce President Matt Parker said. "It is a tribute to the work done to build our community up and to our business base here."

The annual index, which also rates the 200 largest metro areas, is a measurement of where jobs are being created, economies are growing and businesses are thriving.

Those that came out on top this year are cities with diverse but stable economies.

"The medical community has played an important role," Parker said. "Our medical component is a good component for keeping us at the top. Also, we've been able to have a positive unemployment picture."

This year's list includes cities with a high presence of retail, government and health-related industries according to the non-profit, independent economic think tank based in Santa Monica, Calif.

Dothan gained substantially from last year. In the 2002 index, Dothan was ranked 48th among small cities.

Other Alabama cities making the small metro list were Decatur at 66, down from 64 last year and Florence at 67, down from 49 last year.

Tuscaloosa ranked 75th and Anniston ranked number 89th on the new list.

Local public officials responded positively over the city's ranking.

"I think that's great," said Houston County Commission Chairman Mark Culver. "To be 32nd nationally stands out when you compare it to all the municipalities in the ranking. To be first in Alabama is great, especially considering how aggressive communities like Decatur and Opelika-Auburn are."

Culver said the ranking is also a compliment to Matt and all the staff over there at the chamber who work really hard.

Unlike past years when technology-oriented markets dominated the rankings, this year's leaders earned high marks in retail, with a growing population and through reliable growth industries.

Iowa City, Iowa ranked number 1 on the small cities list, followed by Tyler, Texas and Las Cruces, N.M.

Among the large metropolitan areas, Birmingham ranked 95th, up from 129th last year. The Columbus, Ga.-Phenix City area ranked 108th.

Huntsville and Montgomery came in at 117th and 124th respectively. Mobile was ranked at 156.

The top three cities on the large metro list are Fayetteville, Ark., home of Wal-Mart; Las Vegas, one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S.; and Fort Myers, Fla., a growing retirement community.

For Your Information...

✓ The Chamber recently received word that it has been reaccredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, marking 20 years that your Chamber has had this designation. Accreditation is awarded for excellence in organization, programming, financing, staffing, physical facilities, membership, and communications. Only 12 percent of Chambers nationwide and only about 10 in Alabama are accredited. The reaccreditation committee was chaired by Joe Copeland, Keith Granger, Jim House, Mit Kirkland, Mark Saliba, and Linda Wilder. Many thanks to them and their committees for a job well done!

✓ The Chamber proudly recognizes those organizations that have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of school children in the Dothan area: Northside Mall, Southeast Alabama Medical Center, Mr. J's Steakhouse, Domino's, Solomon Motor Company, Ansell, Inc., SouthTrust Bank, Vanguard Services, Southland Bank, Flowers Hospital, Wal-Mart Super Center, Dolly Madison, Godfather's Pizza, K-Mart Northside, K-Mart Southside, Michelin Tire, Papa John's, Compass Bank, Gayfers, Sony Magnetic Products, Regions Bank, Buffalo Rock Pepsi, AAA Cooper Transportation, AmSouth Bank, Couch, Inc., AMX-Summerford Trucking, Petal Pusher, Wiregrass Community Pharmacy, Graceba Total Communications, First National Bank of Ashford, Bank of Cottonwood, Dothan Welding, Washer and Refrigeration Supply Co., Shute Pecan Co., Danny Hornsby Contractors Supply, Ashford Auto Parts, Bank of Columbia, Russell Corporation, Grace Seed & Fertilizer Co., Snell Service Co., Inc., Bond Hardware and Farm Supply, Country Potpourri, and First American Homes. These organizations give unselfishly in the Chamber's Partners in Progress program by adopting an area school. Through it, they mentor, protect, nurture, teach, and serve the youth in Dothan and Houston County. Thank you for meeting the challenge and being community heroes! • If your business, organization, or association would like to adopt a school, please call the Chamber at 792-5138.

✓ Members of the 1998 class of Wiregrass Leadership Institute (WLI) are well on their way to completing their training program. Session 2, Economic Development, was held on January 9 at Enterprise State Junior College. It covered several topics, with emphasis on building a regional economic development program. Session leaders were Tim Alford, Marketing; Kathy Sauer, Lower Alabama Tourism and Retiree Association; Fred Dykes, Electronic Village; Ed Kirkland, Homegrown Business; and Powell Brewton, Infrastructure. The keynote speaker for the day was Dr. Vaughn Grisham, University of Mississippi, McLean Institute for Community Development. Grisham challenged class members to commit themselves to tackle problems in their communities. He led them through a problem solving process, warning that it might require repeated applications before a practical solution was discovered. He and other leaders in northeast Mississippi used a similar process to develop a highway project resulting in construction of the first 4-lane highway in the 17-county region. WLI will hold its last

session on May 12, to include a graduation banquet. Wiregrass Leadership's purpose is to promote economic and community development in southeast Alabama. Each session is designed to implement this purpose. Class projects are planned to improve some of the major concerns in the community.

✓ There will be an Alabama Economic Development Summit for rural communities — untapped opportunities in agriculture — on February 12 at Enterprise State Junior College in Enterprise. Topics to be covered include trends and directions in modern agriculture, agribusiness and the Internet, economic development through international trade, infrastructure needs, and resources available. The objective is to develop an appreciation of agribusiness as a desirable part of the local economic development mix and develop an accompanying strategy. The fee is \$20 and includes lunch. To register, call the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries at 334/240-7100.

✓ As of 1996, there were over 98,000 women-owned businesses in Alabama, employing nearly 231,000 persons and generating \$26.5 billion in sales. Between 1987 and 1992, U.S. Census figures indicate that the number of Alabama women-owned firms increased by 49 percent, employment increased by 85 percent, and sales grew by 110 percent. From 1987 to 1996, women-owned firms in Alabama increased by 88 percent, employment grew by 153 percent, and sales rose 199 percent. In 1996, women-owned firms accounted for one-third of all firms in Alabama, provided employment for one out of every four Alabama workers, and generated 14 percent of the state's business sales. In Alabama, as in the nation as a whole, most women-owned firms are in the services and retail trade. The state ranks 28 in the nation in the number of women-owned firms in 1996, 26 in employment, and 28 in sales. Comparing the industry distribution of Alabama's women-owned firms to U.S. averages finds that women-owned firms in Alabama are more likely than the average woman-owned firm to be in retail trade, less likely to be in services. From 1987 to 1996, the greatest increase in the number of women-owned firms in Alabama was in wholesale trade (198%) and construction (178%); lowest growth was in finance/insurance/real estate (80%). For more information about women-owned businesses, visit www.online.wbc.org on the Internet.

SIGNS etcetera INC.

2855 ROSS CLARK CIRCLE
SUITE 104
DOTHAN, AL 36301

334-678-9507
(FAX) 334-678-9477

TOM COZART
PRESIDENT

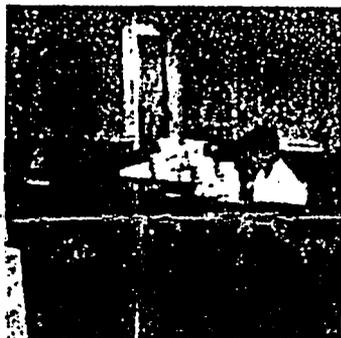
NEW CHAMBER BUILDING

Dedication and open house set for August 26

Chamber members and other invited guests will have an opportunity to tour the new Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce building for the first time August 26. The dedication of the facility will be held at 10 a.m. on the front steps of 102 Jamestown Boulevard. A reception and open house will follow until 12 noon.

building," said Valerie M. Barnes, executive director. "It is exciting for all of us to finally have a Chamber building that reflects the progressive community we serve," she added.

The new facility was constructed at a cost of \$1.26 million and addresses two concerns expressed by



The Chamber moved into its new offices at the end of June and reopened for business July 1. The 9,200-square building includes an enlarged boardroom that can accommodate 50-75; a conference room that will seat 18-25; a private meeting room for four to six, and an executive conference room for eight. The meeting spaces were designed to meet the needs of the Chamber's 16 committees, and for the various membership networking events.

Chamber members over the years: visibility and accessibility. The decision to build a new facility was made following an extensive project analysis, Barnes noted. The building was completed ahead of schedule in eight months.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Chamber will hold its annual meeting October 9 at the Dothan Civic Center. Steve Strauss, a syndicated columnist for USA Today will be the keynote speaker. Music will be provided by the Dial Tones. Chairman of the Board Mike Schmitz, owner of Mike Schmitz Automotive Group will pass the gavel to Incoming Chairman Lamar Brooks, AmSouth city president who will install the Chamber's new board members. Members are encouraged to mark their calendars. Ticket and corporate table sales will begin in September. Additional information will be furnished to members in the coming weeks.

"The board and the staff of the Chamber are very proud of the facility and know our members will feel equally proud once they have had an opportunity to tour the new



CHAMBER RECEIVES PROCLAMATION FROM CITY OF DOTHAN

Dothan Mayor Chester Sowell presented the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce with a proclamation for the organization's "contribution to the outstanding economic performance of the Dothan area" during the City Commission meeting July 15.

diverse and stable economy," and that "the City of Dothan topped the list among all Alabama metropolitan areas in terms of best economically performing cities in 2003." In addition the document notes that the City of Dothan is ranked 32nd on the Milken Institute of Best Performing Cities Index, an annual index that measures where jobs are being created, and where economies are growing and businesses are thriving.

The proclamation which was presented to Chamber President Matt Parker, states that the Chamber contributes to "a growing community based on a

CONNECTIONS

DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AUGUST
2003
www.dothan.co

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