



In reply refer to: M0-19

January 31, 1979

Mr. Joseph Hendrie, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20055

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

It is my understanding that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is contemplating a move to consolidate its operations into a single location in the interest of efficiency. This is certainly a move of great dimension. You will undoubtedly wish to weigh your options very carefully before reaching such an important decision.

If you have not already done so, my purpose in writing you is to urge that Baltimore City be given the most serious consideration as the location for your consolidation. There is more than civic boosterism to my argument. An array of compelling reasons can be mustered for locating in Baltimore. Consider the following:

1. The cost of leasing office space in Baltimore is approximately 25% to 40% less than in Washington. Unlike Washington, this space is available in sizable amounts.
2. Downtown Baltimore and Capitol Hill are approximately 50 minutes away by car. It often takes as much time to negotiate the distance between many prime locations in the Washington Metropolitan area and Capitol Hill. Unlike Washington, Baltimore is currently served by an Interstate Highway network which actually penetrates the center of its downtown. Additional highway access improvements are now under construction.
3. Rail and air service to Baltimore is excellent. Pennsylvania Station, our primary railroad station, is located at the northern edge of the central business district. It is on the main line of Amtrak, enjoys Metroliner service and is a mere 30 minutes from Union Station in Washington. Penn Station is the subject of a major renovation project currently funded by the Federal Railroad Administration. Baltimore-Washington International Airport is less than fifteen minutes away from downtown Baltimore by car. Nearing the end of a massive modernization program, BWI is among the most up-to-date facilities of its kind in this country. It has been the subject of a great surge of interest recently by numerous airlines.

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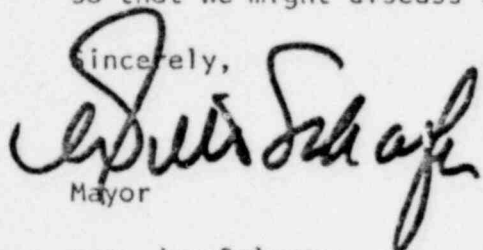
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4. Baltimore has a more than adequate pool of downtown parking available at rates substantially below those found in Washington.
5. Baltimore is a city on the move. Our redevelopment efforts have received acclaim from many quarters. The centerpiece of those efforts is our downtown Charles Center and Inner Harbor areas. Downtown Baltimore is a pleasant environment for the office worker. It is alive with ethnic festivals, entertainment in public plazas, and excellent restaurants and shops.

Obviously, I am unable to tell Baltimore's complete story in a single letter. We have much to offer. You have an opportunity to set an important precedent in the implementation of President Carter's executive order which mandates that preference be extended to the nation's distressed cities when federal agencies expand or relocate. There is virtually no office space to be had in the District of Columbia. In fact, the General Services Administration is no longer leasing space in the District according to my information. Thus, if you should choose to consolidate, Baltimore is a logical alternative. Here, you will not be just another agency looking for space. Rather, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would be something very special. Baltimore would open its arms to you and your employees.

I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr. Jay Solomon, GSA Administrator. The three of us have a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate that President Carter's urban policy represents a true commitment. I would welcome the chance to meet with you here in Baltimore so that we might discuss this matter in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Paul Schaefer

Mayor

cc: Jay Solomon