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PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR AND  
BIOLOGICAL ATTACK



**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515**

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HUMAN RESOURCES

January 26, 2006

Mr. Timothy C. Cox  
Armed Forces Retirement Home  
3700 N. Capitol Street NW  
Washington, DC 20011-8400

**BY FAX AND MAIL**

Dear Tim:

I know that D.C. residents are as pleased, as you know from our discussions I am, that you have initiated work on the large Armed Forces Retirement Home site that historically has been not only underused but also off limits to residents. I write now not only as the city's Member of Congress, but also as Ranking Member of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over GSA, the developer of the site.

A number of unnecessary issues involving consultation with the D.C. government and with residents have arisen that could well delay the project and that have never been raised in connection with the extensive federal construction in the nation's capital, much of it is now underway. I am working with GSA to clear away these issues. One of these matters goes back to advice from GSA consultants and perhaps your own well intentioned desire for early community involvement through an advisory committee. I am sure that these residents have been helpful. Now, as you move to the next stage, particularly considering that three wards are implicated, I ask that you use the straightforward process always used on federal projects of this scope in the District of Columbia and elsewhere in the United States. This uncomplicated community process involves only open, public meetings in which all the appropriate elected officials, including the relevant Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) are involved in offering advice, with somewhat greater contact with the relevant members of the Council and the D.C. government. This simple process has been a very useful and efficient model that has proved highly successful and has never generated conflict. GSA has very effectively used this model in D.C. neighborhoods in the development of the Southeast Federal Center, the largest federal development here since the 1930s and the construction of the headquarters of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to cite two of the largest now underway.

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Our residents are accustomed to federal development and our neighborhoods welcome federal projects because whenever the federal government builds, development, housing and commercial benefits otherwise unavailable follow. All involved understand that the site is federal not District land and that the decisions, of course, must be with federal officials. At the same time the federal government has always worked closely with D.C. government planning officials, elected officials, and residents, and without controversy.

I understand the time and other pressures you are under. If we continue to work together, as you and I have from the beginning, the project will rank as another important and successful federal project benefiting all concerned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eleanor Holmes Norton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the "o" in "Norton".

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Cc: Mayor Anthony Williams  
Robert Bobb, City Administrator  
Ellen McCarthy, Director, Office of Planning  
Councilmember Adrian Fenty  
Councilmember Jim Graham  
Councilmember Vincent Orange  
Bill Guerin, Deputy Associate Administrator of Public Building Service, GSA