

Aug-30-2002 33-55hr From-CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM DELAHUNT

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WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT  
TENTH DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1537 LONGFELLOW BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2111

SOUTH SHORE  
1400-194 1931

1400 MARKET STREET  
QUINCY

140 MILL STREET  
DORCHESTER

CAPE COD ISLANDS  
1000 STATE ST  
MASSACHUSETTS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2110

August 30, 2002

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
PLANNING  
AND  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
CO-CHAIR  
HOUSE COAST GUARD CAUCUS  
OLDER AMERICANS CAUCUS

The Honorable H.T. Johnson  
Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
Installations and Environment Facilities  
Department of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-1000

KAG SEP 03 2002

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We write to thank you for your assistance with the redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station, and to urge you to approve as soon as possible the no-cost Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) Application submitted by the South Shore Tri-Town Development Corporation (Corporation).

As you know, last Congress we fought to authorize no-cost EDCs because we believe the federal government has an affirmative responsibility to mitigate the impacts of base closings.

Since the Naval Air Station closed, an enormous amount of work has gone into the reuse effort. When the base first closed, the community reacted like a family - with grief and hope, anxiousness and anticipation. Most of all, though, we reacted with realism and pulled together to craft a new vision for our own future.

From the beginning, few of us had delusions that this process would yield an immediate or unanimous verdict. While it always seems comforting to reach a final solution fast, we thought it was better to make sure to chart the right course - even if that required a bit more patience and work.

The significant resources spent over the last few years on cleanup and infrastructure underscore that the task of safeguarding "sustainable development" is not quick, especially at a site contaminated by previous military activity. Implicit in this conclusion is a recommitment to the principle that a final redevelopment must enhance our overall economy and quality of life on the South Shore. At each stage henceforth, it is critical to continue to provide the Corporation with our collective support to fulfill this ambitious objective.

Secretary Johnson

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With that in mind, we strongly support the Corporation's current search for a Master Developer and deeply concerned that the Navy might attempt to link approval of the no-cost EDC to early transfer of the full 1424-acre facility. In our view, this is inappropriate, and would hinder rather than accelerate progress -- especially in wake of the Commonwealth's recent endorsement of the Corporation's plan for Stage 1 in the northwest quadrant.

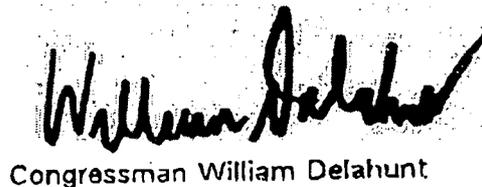
Approval of the no-cost EDC is particularly critical at this juncture, because any delay will seriously impair the Corporation's ability to partner this fall with a Master Developer.

Toward our shared commitment to the successful redevelopment of this BRAC facility, we request expeditious approval of the no-cost EDC application and unencumbered conveyance to the Corporation of clean property in the northwest quadrant identified in three FOSTs to support Stage 1.

Sincerely,



Senator Edward M. Kennedy



Congressman William Delahunt

CC:

David Drozd, EFANE  
John Leigh, OEA  
R. W. Varney, Director - EPA Region 1  
L. A. Liss, Commissioner - Massachusetts DEP  
SSTDC, Board of Directors