



COUNTY OF GRANVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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OFFICE OF THE MANAGER
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March 21, 2006

Dr. Maureen I. McCarthy, Director
Office of Research and Development
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Dr. McCarthy:

As Granville County Manager, I urge you to give the highest consideration to locating the proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in North Carolina.

Several locations have been identified in North Carolina that meet and exceed the requirements for the proposed NBAF. The location in Granville County is ideally suited for the physical and bio-security needs of the proposed facility and for construction of a modern complex with biocontainment laboratories at safety levels 3 and 4. We understand and support that the facility will be focused on research, testing and evaluation of effective countermeasures to protect our citizens and the nation's security against human pathogens, foreign animal diseases and threats from emerging infections.

Granville County is a 30 minute drive from our leading universities including top ranked colleges of medicine, agriculture, veterinary medicine and public health, and the hub of high technology and pharmaceuticals in the Research Triangle Park. Our County seat in Oxford is also surrounded by vital growing industries. Granville County, while steeped in history, is moving into the 21st century with a well-diversified industrial base and a motivated, well-trained labor force.

I urge you to give the highest consideration to locating the NBAF in North Carolina and assure you that we will provide our fullest support and collaboration in working with you to develop the technologies that will protect the health and security of our nation.

Sincerely,

J. Dudley Watts, Jr.
County Manager

JDW,Jr./sbb

GRANVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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Executive Director
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Maureen I. McCarthy
Director, Office of Research and Development
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington D.C. 20528

Dear Dr. McCarthy,

Re: Site for the proposed new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility

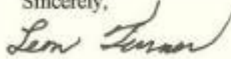
As Executive Director for the Granville Economic Development Commission in Granville County, location of the top choice of several selected sites in North Carolina, I am pleased to endorse the efforts of the North Carolina Consortium to site the proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in North Carolina.

Our state has repeatedly displayed its commitment to protecting the American public in several high priority areas including public health, bio and agro-security, food safety and emerging and zoonotic infections. The Research Triangle Park, located in the middle of three world class research-intensive universities (University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC State University in Raleigh and Duke University in Durham), is recognized as a leading area in biomedical research and technology, pharmaceuticals, vaccine production and bio-manufacturing capabilities. The RTP has more than 130 companies and also houses the National Institutes of Environmental Health and Safety as well as the Environmental Protection Agency. And with regard to quality of life, the Raleigh/Durham area was voted the #1 "Best Area to Live and Work".

Granville County, considered the crown of the Research Triangle, is a 30 minute drive from the RTP and our motto is "Industry goes where it is wanted but only stays where it is appreciated". We have industries and R&D agencies ranging from environmental services to the health and manufacturing sectors. The county seat is Oxford, surrounded by vital growing industries, while retaining its historic past. Granville County, while steeped in history, is moving into the 21st century with a well-diversified industrial base and a motivated, well-trained labor force.

For all these reasons and more, the proposed site in North Carolina is an ideal location for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. We support the efforts of your Department to enhance the national bio-defense complex with modern and integrated agricultural and biological containment laboratories at the BSL 3 and BSL 4 security levels to research develop countermeasures against threats from emerging and foreign diseases. I urge you to give the highest consideration to locating the proposed NBAF in North Carolina.

Sincerely,



Leon Turner
Executive Director



March 23, 2006

Maureen I. McCarthy
Director, Office of Research and Development
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington D.C. 20528

Dear Dr. McCarthy:

As the President and CEO for the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, I urge you to give the highest consideration to locating the proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in North Carolina.

Several locations have been identified in North Carolina that meet and exceed the requirements for the proposed NBAF. The Butner/Umstead Research Station in the counties of Durham and Granville is ideally suited for the physical and bio-security needs of the proposed facility and for construction of a modern complex with bio-containment laboratories at safety levels 3 and 4. We understand and support that the facility will be focused on research, testing and evaluation of effective countermeasures to protect our citizens and the nation's security against human pathogens, foreign animal diseases and threats from emerging infections.

Durham and the Triangle possess more than 60% of North Carolina's biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry and is ranked as having the third largest number of biotech companies of all the regions in the US. Durham County has evolved from a tobacco and textile based economy to achieve world-class status in the areas of medicine, research and high technology. During this transition, I am proud to say that our community and region have become one of the country's most desirable places to live, as well as work.

The internationally known Research Triangle Park is home to more than 140 major research and development organizations including IBM, BASF Agricultural Products, GlaxoSmithKline, Bayer CropScience, Syngenta Biotechnology, Talecris, Biogen IDEC, Eisai, and Nortel Networks. These companies and others in the Park employ nearly 40,000 people and combined annual salaries amount to over \$2.7 billion. Other major research and development organizations, including Aldagen, Amphora Discovery, Argos Therapeutics, BD and bioMerieux, AlphaVax, Cree, Gilead, Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Icagen, Quintiles, Scynexis, and Stiefel laboratories, are located elsewhere in the County. These companies; nationally recognized doctoral research universities such as Duke, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University; and federal agencies provide an unparalleled synergy of valuable resources in the greater Triangle Region.

I urge you to give the highest consideration to locating the NBAF in North Carolina and assure you that we will provide our fullest support and cooperation in working with you to develop the technologies that will protect the health and security of our nation.

Sincerely,

Libby Barnes
President & CEO



COUNTY OF DURHAM

MICHAEL M. RUFFIN
COUNTY MANAGER

March 27, 2006

Dr. Maureen I. McCarthy
Director, Office of Research and Development
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington D.C. 20528

Dear Dr. McCarthy:

As County Manager for the County of Durham, I endorse the efforts of the NC Consortium to locate the proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in North Carolina.

Durham County and the Triangle Region represent a growing and well-diversified industry cluster with extremely strong and dynamic capabilities in state of the art biomedical research, bio-manufacturing, information technology and other services. We are a vibrant community with a motivated and well trained work force.

The Butner, North Carolina location, in Granville County, exceeds the requirements for the proposed DHS facility. Acreage is available to address the physical and bio-security needs of the proposed facility and for construction of a modern complex with bio-containment laboratories at safety levels 3 and 4. We understand that the facility will be focused on research, testing and evaluation of effective countermeasures to protect our citizens and the nation's security against human pathogens, foreign animal diseases and threats from emerging infections. As close neighbors of the Butner site, we would anticipate becoming partners in the project, if selected. We of course would share your concern for adequate infrastructure and public safety resources, and therefore, assume remuneration for such expenses would be included in the project.

I urge you to give thoughtful consideration to locating the NBAF in North Carolina. If selected, I assure you that we will provide our support and collaboration in working with you to develop the technologies that will protect the health and security of our nation.

Sincerely yours,


Michael M. Ruffin
County Manager