

Citizens for a Quality Environment

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January 26, 2006

Charles Myers, Chairman
Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority
5121A Coffey Avenue
Chambersburg, PA 17201

RE: Citizens for a Quality Environment Support for LEAD Requested Reconveyance of
Necessary Land

Dear Mr. Myers:

As you know, Citizens for a Quality Environment (C4aQE), a local group concerned about the environment and our quality of life, has been opposing the siting of the proposed Penn-Mar Ethanol distillery on land located on Development Avenue in the Cumberland Valley Business Park (CVBP), adjacent to Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD).

In addition to concerns about air pollution, noise, water usage, truck traffic, etc, many of the approximately 400 C4aQE members are concerned about the adverse effect of this proposed project on Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD). Many of the 1,700 residents that signed a petition opposing the ethanol distillery share the same concerns.

LEAD has long been crucial to the economic health and well-being of our community. The total or partial closing of LEAD would be a devastating blow to Franklin County, as evidenced by the economic study performed during the BRAC 05 process. LEAD not only survived the BRAC 05 process, but is currently prospering. They have worked hard to develop their reputation as an essential Depot in the system.

LEAD's efforts have led to a need for consolidation of existing operations for more efficiency, and expansion of their facilities for future growth. The future of LEAD, according to the experts there, is dependent on their ability to expand in an intelligent way on contiguous land. Unfortunately, under the BRAC 95 process, that land was determined not to be needed by the Army and was committed for conveyance to LIDA.

The BRAC 95 process apparently assumed that even though bases were going to close, surviving bases would not expand. Obviously, it did not count on the effectiveness of LEAD's Command and workforce. Nor did the BRAC 95 count on involvement in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. Now LEAD is in a position where it needs to expand to maintain its long-term viability. Since that long-term viability is critical to our entire

community, C4aQE believes that Franklin County governments and Authorities should do everything they can to support expansion of existing programs and acquisition of new work at LEAD.

After discussing this issue for several weeks, the C4aQE Board of Directors met recently, and, by unanimous vote, passed a resolution authorizing me to advise LIDA that Citizens for a Quality Environment strongly supports the requested reconveyance of land (we believe it is approximately 240 acres) from LIDA to LEAD, either by deed, or by very long-term lease, whichever would be acceptable to LEAD. The resolution also supports reconveyance to LEAD without cost, or at nominal cost, since the land was acquired by LIDA without cost.

We recognize that LIDA is in the business of selling land to raise money to pay operating costs, and to expand the CVBP. However, we do not believe any business entity LIDA could attract to the 240 acres would provide the quality of jobs and salary that LEAD offers (this conclusion is supported by the new businesses that have been coming to LIDA and other business parks or areas within the county). In addition, in these days where companies are not only lowering, but also canceling their benefits packages and retirement plans, jobs with the Federal Government are very desirable.

A primary LIDA goal, as stated in the formation documents, is to benefit the community and its residents. We believe that a land reconveyance to LEAD is necessary to accomplish that goal.

We hope that the LIDA Board will agree, and recognize that not only would refusal to give the land back to LEAD limit expansion, but it will also make it difficult for LEAD to effectively maintain its current job level, and, worse yet, possibly put it on the chopping block for the next BRAC in 2015.

On behalf of our over 400 members and the 1,700 people who signed our petition, I urge you, and the LIDA Board members, to act favorably on LEAD's request for the reconveyance of the land it requires to maintain its long-term viability, and existing jobs, and to grow its operations bringing new high-quality jobs to Franklin County.

Very truly yours,



DeEtta A. Antoun
Director

cc: Colonel Robert A. Swenson, Commander, LEAD
LIDA Board of Directors