

Citizens for a Quality Environment

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October 10, 2006

Franklin County Commissioners
14 North Main Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Commissioners:

At the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority (LIDA) Board on Monday, October 2, 2006, Col. Robert Swenson presented the attached information (LEAD_to_LIDA_10.2.06) in support of the Army's request for retention/reacquisition of approximately 243 acres of land scheduled to be conveyed or previously conveyed to LIDA as excess land under the BRAC 95. In summary, it shows that LEAD needs the land; not only for future expansion, but also to maintain its competitive position and current operation.

At the same meeting, LIDA Executive Director, John Van Horn, presented a report projecting that it expects to sell or lease only ten (10) acres of land per year through 2027—showing that it does not need the land that LEAD wants.

I have also attached a January 26, 2006 letter from Citizens for a Quality Environment (C4aQE) to Charles Myers, Chairman of the LIDA Board showing our strong support for LEAD's request.

LEAD's request is that the LIDA Board allow the Army to retain/reacquire approximately 243 acres of land for the purpose of strengthening LEAD's current position as an indispensable Army supply and maintenance depot. LEAD was not BRACed in the 2005 round, but remains a target for future BRACs. Most importantly, Red River Army Depot in Texas was barely spared during BRAC 05, and has been working diligently to be sure it is LEAD, not Red River, that gets reduced or closed in the next round.

Given the economic importance of LEAD to our area, the LIDA Board and other community leaders should be fully supporting LEAD in the effort to fortify LEAD against the next BRAC. That does not seem to be the case. In fact, LIDA is requiring LEAD to very publicly beg for land it needs to modernize, expand, and remain competitive (i.e. continue to exist).

Col. Swenson has already paved the way for LIDA to allow LEAD's retention of certain parcels of BRAC land that are due to be signed over to LIDA by getting approval from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for retention/reacquisition. We need to help him, not create roadblocks.

The best and highest use of the BRAC land as outlined in the Franklin County Commissioner's 1997 Reuse/Strategy Plan will be for LIDA to allow LEAD to retain/reacquire the requested land at no cost to the Army, to maintain existing jobs and create new ones.

Please review all information you can obtain regarding Red River Army Depot's (and Texas') efforts to "beat LEAD" and Pennsylvania in the next BRAC round, which would move LEAD's primary work and workforce out of Franklin County. Some information is available on the C4aQE website at:
http://www.c4aqe.org/Smart_Growth/LEAD_protection_from_encroachment/LEAD_protection_from_encroachment.htm
under Texas (scroll down the page).

Citizens for a Quality Environment strongly supports LEAD's September 2006 Land Use Plan and LEAD's retention/reacquisition of approximately 243 acres of BRAC and LIDA land without delay and at no cost to LEAD/Army.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this extremely important matter.



DeEtta Antoun
Director
Citizens for a Quality Environment

- cc: LIDA Board of Directors
Col. Robert Swenson
Sen. Rick Santorum
Rep. Bill Shuster
Gov. Edward G. Rendell
Rep. Rob Kauffman
Rep. Pat Fleagle
Sen. Terry Punt
Ross Mike, FCADC
Greene Township Supervisors
Letterkenny Township Supervisors