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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 21, 2012

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DEAN, NEW JERSEY DELEGATION

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary
US Department of the Army
1000 Army Pentagon
Washington DC, 20310-1600

Dear Secretary McHugh:

It is my understanding that since our conversation last month regarding the proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Army and the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority (FMERA), significant progress has been made and negotiations have proceeded swiftly on both the MOA and the Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) application. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support for, and commitment to, a timely approval of these agreements—which will help reduce the economic impact that the Army's withdrawal will have on the local community.

FMERA has conveyed to me that, last Friday, they received a draft MOA revision from the Army—which they believe is likely to be a final step in the negotiations—and they are cautiously optimistic that the MOA will be completed in time to move forward with the transfer of Parcel E by June 15th. FMERA is working with a number of entities that have expressed interest in obtaining areas of the former-Fort property that are likely to create needed jobs for the individuals in Monmouth County who have chosen not to relocate with the Army, but one company, in particular, is looking to relocate to this parcel to accommodate a planned expansion.

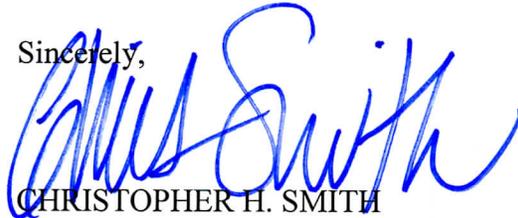
As we discussed, this project is a win-win for both the community and the Army. It is likely to result in thousands of high-paying jobs and an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars. Further, I believe it will act as a magnet, pulling in other businesses and providing a market for other properties on the former-Fort. The new jobs will drive further economic opportunity and interest in the area and will therefore likely result in greater sales and revenue for the Army.

Accordingly, I am grateful for your work, and the diligent work of your staff, in negotiating a timely agreement that appears fair to both parties.

Co-Chairman of: Alzheimer's Caucus • Bi-Partisan Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism • Lyme Disease Caucus
Coalition on Autism Research and Education • Global Internet Freedom Caucus • Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus
Spina Bifida Caucus • Vietnam Caucus • Poland Caucus • Bosnia Caucus
Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs • Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking

Again, thank you for providing me the opportunity to express my support for the timely completion of the MOA and EDC applications. In recent months, you and I have discussed this and other Army activity in my Congressional district and I greatly appreciate you taking the time to do so, especially given the demands you faced, and continue to face, during the budget process. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future to ensure that both the local community and the Army achieve their objectives throughout the property disposal process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith", written in a cursive style.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress