

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2010

Martha N. Johnson
Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F. Street, NW, Room 6105
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Johnson,

We write to you concerning the current lease of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Arlington, Virginia that is scheduled to expire in 2013. As the General Services Administration considers potential options, we urge you to take into account recent developments that we believe continue to make Arlington the ideal location for NSF Headquarters.

Arlington County is a national epicenter for scientific research, particularly in the areas of defense and homeland security. Home to a variety of defense, research, and university offices, the County's research base is anchored by the National Science Foundation, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and several top university-related research institutes, all of which are located within five blocks of each other. Not only does their close proximity provide these agencies with access to one of the most highly educated and highly trained workforces in the nation, it also provides them with immediate access to a large pool of technical experts in the contracting community as well. For these agencies, that access is critical to their mission success.

Becoming a hub for scientific excellence did not happen overnight. Rather, it was the result of a concerted local, state and federal effort to develop scientific capabilities and infrastructure that could advance our national interests.

When the Department of Defense recommended that DARPA be moved to the National Naval Medical Center campus in Bethesda, Maryland during the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, the BRAC Commission voted unanimously to overturn this recommendation. On page 291 of the Report, the Commission stated that moving DARPA "would have a detrimental effect on the research managers' ability to successfully perform their missions. Placing the organizations onto a military installation would restrict their key partners' access to them, and the Commission found that visibility and public accessibility is mission critical in the performance of their functions."

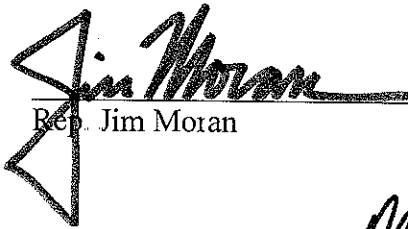
Likewise, we believe a relocation of NSF Headquarters away from Arlington would lead to the same "detrimental effect" on the ability of each of these research

organizations to achieve their agency objectives. Since the Commission's report was issued, additional non-governmental counterparts including Virginia Tech's \$80 million research facility have chosen to locate in Arlington, creating even more opportunities for public-private collaboration.

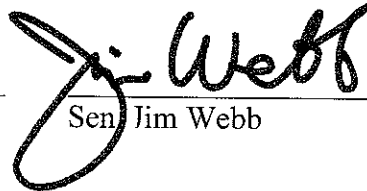
As you begin your review of NSF's lease extension, we encourage you to take special note of the analysis contained in the BRAC Commission Report. We stand ready to assist with any additional information that will ensure NSF's continued presence in Arlington.

Thank you for your consideration.

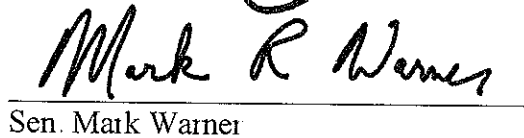
Sincerely,



Rep. Jim Moran



Sen. Jim Webb



Sen. Mark Warner