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March 12, 2015

Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Director
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Secretary Burwell and Director Collins,

As elected officials who represent the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at all levels of government, we want to express our sincere admiration for the tremendous work that you do. NIH is a major employer and a leading research institution in our county, and its employees literally change the world every day.

While we are so grateful that NIH is such a major part of our community and historically a good neighbor to the surrounding community, we are asking you to be an even better neighbor with regard to your targeted parking ratios. By far the single biggest negative impact that NIH has on our community is traffic generation. You do not need to be regaled with stories of traffic on MD 355. You live it every day as well. Traffic congestion is more than a simple matter of driver inconvenience, it is actually a serious quality of life issue, an environmental issue, and an economic competitiveness issue. For example, some businesses have told us that they are often unable to attract new businesses to Bethesda because of traffic concerns.

Given these considerations, we were disappointed with elements of the new NIH Campus Master Plan. We believe that the Selected Alternative, which will add 1,000 parking spaces to the site through the life of the plan, poses a significant challenge to the already overtaxed transportation system in Bethesda.

While we were pleased with NIH's proposal to add spaces at a 3:1 rate, we remain concerned with your plans to retain the 2:1 rate for the existing facilities. We believe that is not responsive enough to the concerns of Bethesda's residents, nor in keeping with the efforts of the neighboring federal institution. As part of the public comment process, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the Montgomery County Planning Board, the County Executive's Military

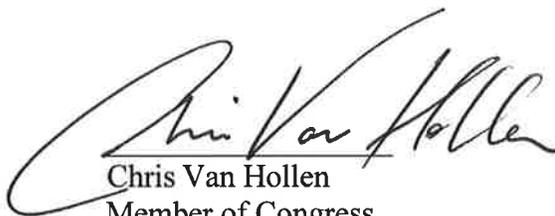
Installations/BRAC Coordinator, and the adjacent Bethesda Crest and Locust Hill communities all requested NIH to adopt an across-the-board 3:1 employee-to-parking ratio to minimize traffic impacts.

As part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program, Naval Support Activity - Bethesda (NSA-B) adopted a 3:1 campus-wide employee-to-parking ratio, for all of its facilities, new and old. It has implemented a number of initiatives on-campus, from shuttles to transportation demand management and plans for bicycle infrastructure, to accommodate employees reaching campus without their cars. NSA-B is proving that a 3:1 ratio can work. NIH can and should follow its lead.

If NIH were to adopt such a policy, instead of adding 1,000 spaces as proposed, NIH would actually be in a position to remove 2,300 spaces – a net benefit of 3,300 spaces. Removing 3,300 cars from our clogged roads would be a “good neighbor policy,” one we urge you to adopt.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

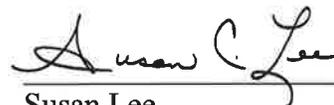
Sincerely,



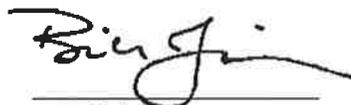
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Roger Berliner
Montgomery County Council



Susan Lee
MD State Senate



Bill Frick
MD House of Delegates



Ariana Kelly
MD House of Delegates



Marc Korman
MD House of Delegates