

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2009

Mr. Stephen Mergens
Executive Director for Diplomatic Security
U.S. Department Of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Mergens:

It has come to our attention that the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, is considering purchasing property in Queen Anne's County, Maryland, for the construction of a training facility. Maryland's Eastern Shore offers an ideal quality of life where historical, cultural, educational, and natural resources abound. From its historic buildings and art galleries to its state parks and landmarks, the attraction of this region nestled between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean is undeniable.

The Queen Anne's County site currently under consideration would provide an ideal location for a consolidated embassy security training facility. The proximity of the site to Washington, D.C. makes for easy passage to our Nation's Capital. Additionally, international airports serving three major cities- Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia- can easily serve the area. The proposed facility will consolidate the training that is currently taking place at 19 shared facilities across the United States. The Maryland site is even more cost effective with year-round training activities possible since major snow events are rare.

The local community and the State of Maryland heartily endorse the creation of a diplomatic training facility in Queen Anne's County and thus stand ready to work closely with the General Services Administration and the State Department Bureau of Diplomatic Security to see this project come to fruition. We also recognize the benefits of locating the proposed facility in Queen Anne's County; to Maryland and to the Nation. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important project.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2009

Mr. Christian Townsend
Realty Specialist
General Services Administration-
Mid-Atlantic Region (3)
20 North 8th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

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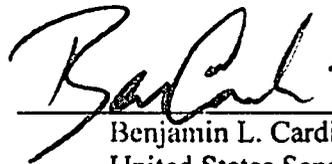
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