COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
READINESS
SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

ETHICS

Joe Courtney
Congress of the United States
2nd District, Connecticut

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March 27, 2012

Mr. Willie Taylor
Economic Development Administration
Philadelphia Regional Office
Curtis Center
601 Walnut Street, Suite 140 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I write in strong support of the Town of Preston's grant application. Since 1995 the Town of Preston and surrounding municipalities have collaborated to remediate this site known as the Preston Riverwalk Property. The blighted site has the perfect location to develop at the crossroads of New England. The proposals include a bio-science center, convention center, hospitality venues, workforce housing units and a transportation center. The Preston Riverwalk Property has built a coalition of state, federal and local partners in collaboration with private business to redevelop the site. The EDA's objectives are fully met with this proposal.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act pledged to put Americans back to work through infrastructure development and to recapture blighted properties. This grant application has the most important aspects of the EDA mission covered; it has drawn private investment and continues to be a desirable investment, it will retain old jobs, it will produce thousands through direct clean up and construction and furthermore, future industries in the bio-science and hospitality. The additional planning to host on site workforce housing units will help alleviate the need for affordable housing units as the fair market rate for an apartment is near $800 a month. Southeastern Connecticut has an opportunity to rebuild 390 acres once the cleanup has been finished. This award will complete the clean up on the Preston Riverwalk Property. I request full and fair consideration for this application and if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Courtney

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress