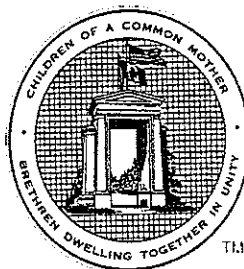


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United States Canada Peace Anniversary Association

Mr. Michael Levine
U.S. General Services Administration (10PTT)
400 15th Street NW
Auburn, WA 98001-9710

January 8, 2006

RE: Peace Arch Port of Entry Redevelopment Environmental Impact Study Draft

Dear Mr. Levine,

This letter provides my comments on the January 17, 2006 date you have established to close public comments on the Environmental Impact Statement.

I wish to note for the record my own and some members of our community's concerns regarding the timing of the Public Comment period. As a leader of an organization that spends much time dealing with tourism and issues relating to the Peace Arch Park as well as the Blaine community at large, I feel my comments may be helpful.

The public comment period now is 51 consecutive days including holidays and weekends. There are three legal holidays during the comment period (Christmas, New Years & Martin Luther King Day). Many people throughout the U.S. and Canada have absorbed themselves in preparations, travel and activities related to both religious and conventional activities. Therefore the public only has total of 34 working days to comment including the release date November 28th and the close date January 17th. This does not provide sufficient time to examine issues and adequately prepare either responses or delineate their concerns. This does not account for the many "holiday time offs" that occur within the business, academic and governmental communities that would offer factual data helpful to those responding during the same period. The result is that with so many pressures on so many people, together with the limited scheduling of the comment period, this important public input is therefore limited to the same degree. Also, It is very difficult for community organizations to get together when much of their planning time is scheduled in advance.

Mr. Levine, there is a further thought that may also be helpful as you consider this issue. Many of the residents have expressed their concerns about the difficult time they have in dealing with related issues such as the property acquisition. Many others, aware of this situation, might feel that the short time they have for public comments above, were intentionally designed to reduce or eliminate some of the input or concerns they might otherwise share with the GSA. Like you, we feel strongly about the need to hear from all sides of the issues and or suggestions that they might have. I know, therefore, that you will give this your serious consideration.

I really appreciate the efforts that you and the GSA staff have made to meet with the community or other interested parties on this major undertaking. Each meeting has been an example of patient listening and courteous responses to all concerns.

Incidentally, had you or one of the other staff members had the overlay* you had hoped to bring to the second public meeting December 13th, some of the objections, as well as their questions, might have been resolved.

Sincerely,

Christina Alexander, President

* At the December 8th, 2005 Meeting you indicated you would prepare an "overlay picture" slide that showed the current as well as the proposed "footprint" of the proposed projects.