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COPY

The Honorable Thomas M. Davis, III  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2348 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4611

Dear Congressman Davis:

Thank you for participating in the November 20 discussion about ways in which we might speed up delivery of a south county middle school. I believe we all recognize the immediacy of the overcrowding situation at the South County Secondary School and the importance of finding a solution that addresses not only the concerns of the school community but also the county at large.

Clark Construction's submission of a conceptual proposal was appreciated and warrants further review. Our discussion of an alternative involving the sale of Laurel Hill property to raise money for construction of the school also deserves further consideration, but please know I have reservations about breaking faith with the public in a way that might cause any second guessing of the county's commitment to preserving open space. As you will recall, local, state and federal leaders pledged to preserve a majority of the former prison site as open space and the Laurel Hill Master Plan does just that. Listed below are a few action items and follow up details which would prove helpful in preparing for further discussion of this proposal:

- County Executive Anthony Griffin and county staff to review Laurel Hill Master Plan to identify a property or properties that might be compatible with this proposal.
- Congressman Tom Davis' office to report back on his meeting with the deputy secretary of the Army, particularly with respect to the Army making any land at the Engineer Proving Ground available for this proposal.
- FCPS Chief Operating Officer Dean Tistadt to report back on the deadline for use of the middle school property and provide a firmer cost estimate for the middle school.

- FCPS to provide its current Capital Improvement Plan schedule highlighting the middle school's current place in the queue.

I look forward to further discussion of this proposal and thank you again for your interest and participation.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly

GEC/djb

Cc: Gerry Hyland, Supervisor Mount Vernon District  
Ilyrong Moon, Chairman Fairfax County School Board  
Daniel Storck, School Board Member Mount Vernon District  
Anthony Griffin, County Executive  
Edward Long, County Chief Financial Officer  
Jack Dale, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools  
Dean Tistadt, Chief Operating Officer Fairfax County Public Schools