January 25, 2021

Mr. Chuck Davis, P.E.
Facility Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Engraving & Printing
14th & C Streets, SW
Washington, DC 20228

Dear Mr. Davis:

On behalf of Prince George’s County, I wish to express my strong support for the proposed relocation of the Bureau of Engraving & Printing DC Production Facility from Washington, DC to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Prince George’s County.

As I understand, the Bureau of Engraving & Printing has selected an unused 100-acre parcel of land at the 6,500-acre Beltsville Agricultural Research Center as its preferred location for the new one million square foot facility projected to employ a workforce of 1,600 employees. Of the current production workforce at the DC Facility, approximately 68 percent reside in Maryland and 31 percent in Prince George’s County. I am also pleased to know the Draft Environmental Impact Study found no issues that would stand in the way of the DC Production Facility being located at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

My administration will do all we can to welcome the agency and its employees to their new home in Prince George’s County. The County provides an outstanding location for the agency, offering an enriched quality of life, outstanding housing choices, successful retail locations, 27,000 acres of park land, multiple entertainment and sports events, the 300-acre National Harbor, home to the MGM Hotel & Casino, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, and many other hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues.

We are proud to be the home to many federal facilities, including NASA Goddard, NOAA, the U.S. Census Bureau, Joint Base Andrews and the new USCIS headquarters at the Branch Avenue Metro. There are also many higher education institutions such as the University of Maryland College Park – the State's flagship campus; Bowie State University, Capitol Technology University; University of Maryland Global Campus; and Prince George’s Community College. The County will soon open a new state-of-the-art University of Maryland Capital Region teaching hospital, not far from the Children’s National Hospital's new 60,000 square foot medical facility at the Woodmore Towne Centre off the Capital Beltway.

We are committed to supporting this great federal relocation opportunity, and thank you for choosing Prince George’s County, Maryland, for the new Bureau of Engraving and Printing Production Facility location.

Sincerely,

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

cc: Angie Rodgers, Deputy Chief administrative Officer for Economic Development
    David Iannucci, Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Corporation
    Wayne K. Curry Administration Building • 1301 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774
    (301) 952-4131 • www.princegeorgescountymd.gov
Testimony for National Capital Planning Commission in regards to the relocation of the Printing and Engraving facility on 4/1/2021

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Just the other day, I stopped to enjoy a quiet moment at the Beaver Dam Creek, just a few hundred feet from the proposed 100 acre BPE industrial complex. As I enjoyed the sight of a bald eagle standing proudly atop its nest, I could also see the sign that reads, “Anacostia river herring Restoration project.” I wondered how Beaver Dam Creek, a small slow moving creek barely more than ten feet wide and a couple of feet deep in most areas could survive the influx of 120,000 gallons of polluted waste water every day. I know the answer, it can’t and it won’t.

The site chosen by BPE for their one million square foot building and 1200 car parking lot has been described by BARC scientists as a “rare savanna habitat” that is home to, at least, 230 species of birds. And a natural spring that provides a steady flow of crystal clear water to Beaver Dam Creek, Indian Creek and the Anacostia River. The site is dominated by hundreds of trees that are 100+ years old, at least 4 acres of wetlands, and a diversity of flora and fauna. The entire site is proposed to be “totally wiped out.” Beaver Dam Creek is known to be the cleanest creek in Prince George’s County. Yet, instead of crystal clear spring water, Beaver Dam Creek would henceforth be turned into a dumping ground for 120,000 gallons of polluted waste water every day.

I am here to ask the National Capital Planning Commission to help save and preserve for future generations not just a 100 acre rare savanna. Because what is really at stake is the future of the largest, most biologically diverse contiguous forested/open space on the east coast. Yes the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (6000 acres), the Patuxent Wildlife Research Preserve (12,800 acres), the undeveloped areas of NASA and the Secret Service properties (100s of acres), and the City of Greenbelt’s 200 acre forest preserve make up the largest remaining contiguous forested area on the east coast. This area is critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay and millions of residents of the Washington, DC region. This area was once famously, and properly, described by the late US Senator Paul Sarbanse as the “lungs of the Washington region.”

Here are the the current known proposed projects that will directly and adversely affect the Beaver Dam/Indian Creeks, and the Anacostia watershed: (1) BPE printing facility, (2) MAGLEV train, (3) Baltimore/Washington Parkway widening, (4) Capital Beltway 95/495 widening, (5) Kenilworth Avenue widening. Also, I believe these projects constitute environmental racism because they all directly and adversely affect a majority minority community, even though there are clear alternatives to all of the proposed projects. If we cannot preserve this last bastion of beauty and biodiversity on the east coast, we will never be able to avoid the catastrophic effects of global warming and climate change.

Lifetime Greenbelt resident & City Council Member,

Rodney M. Roberts
March 17, 2021

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500N
Washington DC  20004

Re: April 1, 2021 Meeting – Action Item 8243 Bureau of Engraving and Printing Currency Production Facility

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Maryland Department of Commerce, I wish to express our support for the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing’s (BEP) proposed replacement currency production facility to be located on the USDA Beltsville Agriculture Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, Maryland. The BEP production relocation, bringing 1,600 highly skilled jobs, would have a significant impact to Prince George’s County, the region and the state economy.

The construction of a new technologically advanced currency production operation, versus the renovation of an aged facility, will result in a cost savings of $600 million to the taxpayers. Also, the U.S. Department of Treasury and BEP have a commitment of green development and design of a sustainable facility.

The construction of the proposed building is expected to employ approximately 1,712 construction workers resulting in estimated total earnings of $105,428,082 over the life of the construction project. The 1,600 employees will have a yearly average salary of approximately $99,000 per employee, resulting in total earnings of $15,840,000 per year. With 65 percent of the current workforce residing in Maryland with 43 percent living locally in Prince George’s County, most of the workers will benefit from this location. These employees will also have a positive impact on the local economy as there are 2000 retailers with 25,000 employees within a five-mile radius of BARC.

Maryland’s support of this project began in 2018 when Governor Hogan wrote to key congressional Senators and Representatives to encourage the passage of bills to authorize the transfer of land for and the construction of the Currency Production Facility on the BARC campus. In 2019, the Department of Commerce Secretary Kelly Schulz sent a letter of support during the scoping process. Several months ago, Governor Hogan again expressed his support of the relocation during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period.
Maryland is home to over 60 federal facilities and 12 military bases, and we are committed to support, grow, sustain and partner with them. We stand ready to assist in the development of the Bureau if Engraving and Printing’s replacement currency production facility at BARC.

Respectfully,

Helga Weschke
Director, Federal Business Relations

CC: Secretary Kelly Schulz, Maryland Department of Commerce
City of Greenbelt Official Testimony

Good afternoon, members of the Commission. For the record: Holly Simmons, Community Planner with the City of Greenbelt. I’m speaking on behalf of the Greenbelt City Council, which voted in opposition to this project, and which has submitted a letter outlining serious concerns. The City borders the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and values BARC as an integral part of Greenbelt’s “green belt”.

The City finds that the project directly conflicts with the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center 1996 Master Plan, which has the stated objective of developing a framework which supports the accomplishment of the following items:

- “Preservation of BARC’s low density character, […]
- “Improvement of BARC’s visual environment, […]
- “Protection of wildlife and birds,” among others.

Additionally, siting this industrial facility on BARC would undermine established planning policies at the County level. The site is located within the County’s Reserved Open Space zone and designated within the Priority Preservation Area, Growth Tier IV, the Plan 2035 Rural and Agricultural Policy Area, and the Subregion 1 Master Plan Rural Tier, all of which intend to prioritize the preservation of prime agricultural land, promote land preservation and/or limit development. Although the land on BARC is not bound by local zoning or local policy areas, these designations provide clear indications of the highest and best use for this land.

During the February 4 Commission meeting, BEP indicated that the site is previously developed and not a greenfield. It is true that more than 20 historic buildings and structures currently occupy the site, many of which are contributing resources to the NRHP-eligible BARC Historic District; however, much of the site is undeveloped. This fact is evidenced by the removal of 3.6 acres of forest, nearly 80 acres of meadow and agriculture communities, and 125 individual specimen trees (defined as 30 inches diameter at breast height or greater); the filling of nearly 1 acre of wetlands; and the diversion and/or filling of 226 linear feet of streams that would be necessary to complete this project, per the DEIS.

The project will also impact Beaverdam Creek, a high-quality, Tier II stream located off-site on BARC. In addition to on-site impacts to waterways that feed the Creek, the facility will discharge 120,000 gallons of treated effluent to Beaverdam Creek each day, thereby increasing the amount of permitted discharge by 60%. Further, the transportation mitigation shown in the TIS, which has not been addressed in the NCPC concept submittal, would add another 340,000 square feet (approximately 8 acres) of new impervious surface to local roadways. The City is highly concerned about the impact to on- and off-site hydrology and the wildlife and plant species in wetlands, waterways, and floodplains. Treasury has yet to identify how they will be able to meaningfully mitigate the loss of and impact to wetlands, waterways, tree canopy, and terrestrial and aquatic habitat – a fact which is all the more concerning when considering the potential cumulative, long-term, adverse effects of this project combined with other major development projects being contemplated in this area, including the Baltimore-Washington SCMaglev, Beltway widening, and Baltimore-Washington Parkway widening.

The City also has serious concerns regarding traffic and site accessibility. The applicant proposes to relocate a facility employing upwards of 1,600 people from site easily accessed by public transit and easily accessed on foot or by bicycle to an area virtually unserved by public transit located on a rural road lacking pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. These employees will generally travel in single occupancy vehicles, which poses serious concerns for congestion on already overtaxed local roads.
Additionally, it is possible that employees will have to travel farther to get to the new facility. According to the TIS, an employee survey conducted by BEP found that “the largest concentration of [existing] employees come from southern Prince George’s County, western Charles County, and northern Stafford County Virginia, with comparatively few employees claiming residence north of the proposed [...] site”. This suggests that, although a large minority of existing employees may live within Prince George’s County, moving the facility north from its current location to Beltsville could increase commutes for much of the facility’s specialized workforce.

In summary, this project will have significant adverse impacts on BARC, the human and natural environment, transportation, and the surrounding community. The City would like to take this time to reaffirm our opposition to siting of this development on BARC. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.
My name is Dr. Howard Zhang. I serve as the Center Director for the USDA ARS Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville Maryland. I have been involved with BEP’s relocation project since 2017. BARC views this project as mutually beneficial to BEP and BARC. The land, approximately 100 acres off of Poultry Road, has been underutilized and a brownfield since BARC constructed a new poultry research facility that replaced bulk of the functions in this area. The exceptions are three poultry quarantine buildings and a wildlife management building. The transfer of land was authorized by Congress in 2018 and an MOA between ARS and BEP was signed in 2020. BARC facility staff have been involved with the Army Corp of Engineers design team in all aspects of the project. BARC fully support this project.
Good Afternoon to the Members of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

My name is Loveleen “Dee” Perkins

Today I am honored to be here to speak on behalf of the members of the Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc. and Mr. John D. Perkins, President. My presence today is to speak in reference to agenda Item File Number: 8243 – Bureau of Engraving and Printing Currency Production Facility. We are in SUPPORT of the relocation of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC).

Vansville is a historic community in Prince George’s County and for statistical purposes, Vansville is a part of the Beltsville census-designated place. Vansville, MD was officially designated as a historical site by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on January 30, 1973.

You may ask why is this significant! It is significant because the Vansville Community historical marker is located at Odell Road and Old Baltimore Pike which is within several blocks of (BARC) where the BEP seek to house its new facility which is being re-located from downtown Washington, DC.

During several meetings of the Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc. we discussed and unanimously agreed and will welcome BEP to the historic Vansville/Beltsville community.

The Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc. welcomes the Bureau of Engraving with the understanding that they will work hand in hand with Vansville with minimum to no negative impact to the community that they will be a part of.
We’ve met with several representatives of the BEP project, particularly with Mr. Chuck Davis. He and his team shared their great respect and an interest in maintaining our historic area with a desire to develop good community working relationships.

Mr. Davis and his team also shared with us the following – to name just a few - of their intent for our community: 1) their intent to remove the rumble strips along the length of Powder Mill Road to reduce the significant noise generated as vehicles pass over each strip, 2) removal of twenty-two derelict facilities associated with the existing site, each of which is a public safety and environmental hazard, 3) improvements to immediate traffic network in accordance with the recommendations presented in the 2020 Traffic Impact Study, and 4) welcoming the local schools for field trips, events like Career Days, and hand-on experiences for Chemistry Week and continuing with Project Lead the Way. Our expectations are that if BEP is located to the BARC facility, they will continue to reach out to the community for opportunities to share in advance what changes may need to be made at their facility that may impact our community. Many of BEP’s employees are located in Prince George’s county, however BEP has shared that for our community, in the future, higher than average compensation job opportunities will be available within the Bureau.

**HOWEVER, we are not naïve** and we’ve discussed and shared our concerns with BEP and we know that initial plans will continue to evolve. We are simply asking for a continual review of plans for specific infrastructure improvements for several major roadways in our area that will be critically impacted by the increased workforce. Several major highways BEP has under consideration for improvement are based on the recommendations presented in the 2020 Traffic Impact Study to BEP, however I am not sure what considerations will be given to Odell Road – a very narrow two-lane – currently a well-traveled road located at the back entrance of BARC.

It is said that we are to be “good stewards” of our land and use all it in a very proper and safe manner.

I’m sure the term “Environmental Stewardship” is not new to anyone – it refers to being responsible, protective of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. Aldo Leopold
(1887–1949) championed environmental stewardship based on a land ethic "dealing with man's relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it." Land Ethic should become a part of our everyday life...understanding this, we should proclaim what we will do individually and collectively to build and strengthen our relationship to the land – to the animals – to plants upon which they grow. How will we take care of the water use – the air we breathe without the priority being money, unlimited concessions, without focus on self! …. Proper use of the land.

Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc. is encouraged, supportive and look forward to many opportunities to discuss this project in the very early stages of its progression! We support the possibility of a new neighbor – The Bureau of Engraving and Printing!

Respectfully, the Executive Board of the Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc

John “JD” Perkins  
President,

Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc.

Mr. Joseph Briscoe, President Emeritus
Mrs. Fannie Minor, Vice President
Mrs. Eleanor Holt, Treasurer
Mr. Randolph Brown, Membership Chair
Mrs. Loveleen "Dee" Perkins,
Special Projects Coordinator
Thank you for the opportunity to address this Commission. I appreciate your time. My name is Cynthia Smith and I am the President of the Greater Beltsville Business Association.

The Greater Beltsville Business Association (GBBA), not to be confused with Residents for a Better Beltsville, was formed in 2012. Our mission is twofold in that we strive to support the growth of small businesses in the greater Beltsville area as well as serve as advocates for issues regarding health, transit, education, and anything that affects the community. Let it be known that as an organization, we stand in favor of moving the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) Production facility from Washington DC to Beltsville, MD.

From a small business growth perspective, the 1200 people that are employed by the BEP will be potential customers to the small businesses in Beltsville and the surrounding areas. These employees will need gas for their vehicles, places to eat, drugstores and other retail venues for shopping, and some may want to take an exercise class or two after work. The businesses in this area have much to offer and really value the opportunity to serve their customers. BEP employees will have access to all the wonderful products and services this area has to offer.

While we understand the goal of BEP is to keep all current employees, there may be some who choose to relocate to live closer to the facility which again, positively impacts our small businesses. New hires might also come from this community or locate here.

In terms of traffic, the Beltsville and Vansville Citizen’s Associations along with GBBA have long advocated for upgrading Route 201 (Edmonston Road) and other local roads that have been impacted by the growth in our area. Upgrading Route 201 will increase our ability to better move the traffic which exists today, thereby reducing emissions while supporting the increased traffic from the new facility. This upgrade has long been needed.

In terms of the impact on the environment, this state-of-the-art facility is an excellent use of environmentally sensitive lands. The impact on the environment is minimal due to the inclusion of numerous Green Building technologies including the use of photovoltaic panels, green roofs and rainwater capture, just to mention a few initiatives. The upgrade on all the surrounding roads has a positive impact on the environment.

After attending a presentation at BARC regarding this new facility, I was very impressed by their plans for the future. I had the opportunity to see how a facility like the one proposed here has been successful in Fort Worth TX, a newer facility in a much more densely populated area. As BARC has been a good neighbor, BEP plans on investing their time and effort into this community. Their future plans to run a STEM program in partnership with the local school system and possibly provide an opportunity to have a vendor fair for local businesses is what being a good neighbor is all about.
Again, GBBA stands with Vansville, who is the closest community affected by this new facility, and the other community organizations who support moving this production facility to Beltsville.

Thank you again for this opportunity provide testimony on behalf of GBBA.
To: The Chairperson and Members of the NCPC

Re: Bureau of Printing and Engraving move to BARC

Date: March 31, 2021

I have lived e blocks from BARC my entire life...63 years. Having BARC as a neighbor was a wonderful experience growing up as a child. There were numerous outings learning about plants, nutrition and livestock, including seeing the inside of a cow, the Beltsville Turkey. Too many firsts to list. BARC’s success and BARC’s 1st were Beltsville’s Success. My childhood friends parents were scientists, researchers studying the impact of droughts, shorter growing seasons, how to grow plants and livestock in adverse conditions. The scientist and researches at BARC also formed a partnership with the schools, Lions Club, Rotary, Citizens’ Association and other community groups. Over the years they have helped students with a variety of STEM projects. As speakers at various civic and business organizations they have taught the Greater Beltsville Community to appreciate the benefits of such vast open space in an increasing urban area.

Based on my research BPE appears to have the same type of partnership in Texas. I look forward to working with their employees in and around the Beltsville Community

Unfortunately since my 20’s BARC has been under attack. I have watched politicians from both parties chip away at the Crown Jewel of Beltsville, Prince George’s County and Maryland. Different programs have been moved to other parts of the country. This has put the remained of BARC at risk. Every 7-10 years someone wants to move all of BARC from Beltsville. We are having this discussion because the site at BARC under consideration lost the previous Research Program was moved to another state. Leaving the land and buildings vacant. As President of the Beltsville Citizen’s Association I have worked with Congressman Hoyer to keep BARC here every time someone has wanted to sell off some or all of BARC!

I support BARC wanting to partner with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. If the land continues to sit vacant if leaves all of BARC at risk. The proposal for the
Bureau of Printing and Engraving is repurposing this site at BARC. The construction technology that is available today will help with the emission concerns from the new facility. They will be responsible for removing existing dilapidated building from the site. BPE will help improve some of the infrastructure with in BARC. The offsite road improvements will help with the existing traffic congestion in the area. I believe the partnership with BARC and BPE is a WIN WIN. I believe this partnership is a WIN WIN for Beltsville, Prince George's County and Maryland.

I want BARC to stay in Beltsville!!! If sharing some of their land with BPE gives BARC stability I am in favor of this proposal. If BARC is ever declared surplus who knows what will happen. While there are buildings and parking lots at BARC and there will be at the BPE site the BARC campus provides one of the largest OPEN SPACE areas in northern Prince George's County. To those who oppose this proposal I say “Be careful what you wish for…”

Karen Coakley
Lifelong Beltsville Resident
Beltsville, Maryland