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EDUCATION AND THE  
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August 14, 2015

Secretary John F. Kerry  
The United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037

Honorable Denise Turner Roth  
General Services Administration  
1800 F Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Secretary Kerry & Administrator Roth:

As you know, the United States Department of State is pursuing new options for foreign affairs security training. To ensure this important training is done in the most efficient manner and in the best interest of American taxpayers, the Office and Management and Budget (OMB) was tasked with analyzing the Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FAST-C) at Fort Pickett in Blackstone, Virginia, and efficiencies that could be achieved by locating training functions within the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Brunswick, Georgia.

My reading of the OMB analysis would indicate:

- locating training facilities at FLETC would save taxpayers \$812 million over 10 years;
- FLETC would be able to accommodate students more quickly than FASTC;
- not only is FLETC able to handle the complex scheduling needs of DS but could assist in the development and refinement of curriculum;
- FLETC can accommodate the training requirements laid out by DS;
- Transportation savings of locating FASTC at Fort Pickett would not exceed the capital cost savings of utilizing FLETC; and
- existing support services at FLETC provide an added value of \$625 million over the State Department's attempts to reduce its construction budget by removing such facilities.

Reviewing this analysis reaffirms my belief that the FLETC is a more effective and efficient use of taxpayer resources in meeting the urgent training needs.

After reviewing this analysis and understanding that the Department has publicly announced that it will move forward with building FAST-C in Blackstone, Virginia, I am officially requesting a written justification from the Department of State thoroughly detailing the Department's decision to move forward with FAST-C in Blackstone, Virginia. This justification should include:

- all communications, phone calls, analyses and reports within the State Department and GSA that justify that Blackstone, Virginia is the best location for foreign affairs security training and led to State and GSA's decision as well as all communications, phone calls,

and emails between the State Department, GSA, and OMB after the initial OMB analysis that recommended FLETC as the better option;

- all analyses from other offices within the Administration that justify that Blackstone, Virginia is the best location for foreign affairs security training;
- all independent analyses that the State Department used to decide that Blackstone, Virginia is the best location for foreign affairs security training.

Given the urgent need to bring this training online and the mandate on all public servants to be good stewards of taxpayer resources, I am requesting a response and the written justification within thirty days of receiving this letter.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress