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BUDGET COMMITTEE



ZACH WAMP
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
THIRD DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
423 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3271 - (202) 225-3494 Fax

DISTRICT OFFICES:
FEDERAL BUILDING, SUITE 100
200 ADMINISTRATION ROAD
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830
(423) 483-3366 - (423) 576-3221 Fax
FEDERAL BUILDING, SUITE 126
900 GEORGIA AVENUE
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402
(423) 756-2342 - (423) 756-6613 Fax

February 28, 2001

Ms. Virginia H. Dale
113 Amanda Place, # A
Oak Ridge, TN 37830-7814

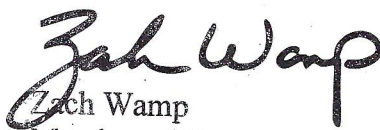
Dear Virginia:

It is in the best interest of the 3rd District of Tennessee to strike a responsible balance between economic development and environmental protection of our precious resources. While I support the vision to develop the West End of Oak Ridge through the Partners for Progress charter, we must maintain large portions of the Oak Ridge Reservation for future research and preservation.

The systematic and orderly development of the Boeing site, Horizon Center and East Tennessee Technology Park and adjacent areas are vitally important to the economies of both Oak Ridge and Roane County. I am pleased that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Operations office to make decisions that are based on good science appropriate land use and planning.

I have asked that before the DOE moves forward with a lengthy site wide EIS process of the Oak Ridge reservation, the elected leaders of our area be given a briefing and have an opportunity to be heard on this important decision. This is a very serious proposition with far reaching implications. The Department of Energy had not informed me of this action when the reports surfaced in the newspaper. Good communication is essential to progress in Oak Ridge. I look forward to being a part of that process.

Warmest regards,


Zach Wamp
Member of Congress

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