

Advocates For the Oak Ridge Reservation
136 West Revere Circle, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830
www.kornet.org/aforr/

November 12, 2002

Honorable Mayor David R. Bradshaw
And Members of City Council
City of Oak Ridge
P.O. Box 1
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0001

Dear Mayor Bradshaw and Members of Council,

The Advocates for Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) support the preservation of natural resources of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Reservation, as well as the development of uses that are of greatest benefit to all affected by its use. Dev Joslin represented AFORR on the DOE ORR Land Use Committee, which recently completed Phase One of its work. This study concluded that DOE land divestment would not be sufficient to offset the economic effects of DOE's decrease in funding. AFORR has no tangible data that any DOE land transfers for the purpose of development have created a greater positive effect for the area than if the same programmatic dollars were given directly to the community.

AFORR is aware of the need for the City of Oak Ridge to maintain quality services and schools, despite the large reductions in DOE-related employment over the past decade. Our organization supports the City in its efforts to increase remuneration from the DOE, by increasing the per acre value of federal land within the City, particularly the property which is used for industrial purposes. AFORR believes an effective method to avoid rapid and possibly fragmented development, is to pay the City and its citizens a more appropriate "payment-in-lieu-of-taxes" amount. In addition, the reinstatement of annual assistance payments to the City may be the only way to truly offset the special burdens the community bears from various sensitive activities that occur on the ORR.

AFORR commends City officials for initiating a campaign to solicit input into the FY 2004 budget. We appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to working with you to ensure a vibrant future for the City of Oak Ridge.

Sincerely,

AFORR Board of Directors

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Past-President

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