

# CITY OF OAK RIDGE



POST OFFICE BOX 1 • OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831-0001

July 24, 2006

Ms. Ellen Smith  
Vice President  
Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation  
136 West Revere Circle  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am in receipt of your letter dated June 20, 2006 regarding your summary of AFORR's recent meeting with conservation groups and "government agencies" to discuss the future of the Three Bends Area on the Oak Ridge Reservation in Oak Ridge.

As you are doubtless aware, the City of Oak Ridge expressed surprise and consternation in 1999 when former Department of Energy Secretary Richardson designated the Three Bends Area with no involvement by local elected officials in discussions regarding this valuable property located within the Oak Ridge City limits. The Three Bends contains land that the City expected to be conveyed to the community as part of DOE's agreement with the City to end annual assistance payments pursuant to the Atomic Energy Communities Act. As you know, the area is designated as Self-Sufficiency Parcels 14 (Gallaher Bend) and 15 (Solway Bend and Freels Bend) on the map prepared by DOE that has been used to guide self-sufficiency discussions since the mid-1980s.

The land is located within the City of Oak Ridge and hence the City has zoning and planning authority over the property. I am not aware of any official State of Tennessee positions or those of its agencies (including TWRA and TDEC, two of the organizations mentioned in your letter). While I agree that a plan emphasizing mixed-use with increased public access is desirable, legal comprehensive planning for these parcels cannot be undertaken without direct input from the Oak Ridge City Council, other local government officials whose jurisdiction includes the area, and our local citizens through a public process.

Your letter states that AFORR is interested in a dialogue with the City of Oak Ridge to discuss the future of this valuable resource. It is unfortunate that the City was not invited to nor asked to participate in your May meeting. Your letter indicates that AFORR intentionally set the stage for a less than open discussion because virtually every stakeholder organization was represented except local city and county government representatives. As such, the conclusions reached in your letter are clearly less than representative of the Oak Ridge population and are not acceptable

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to the City of Oak Ridge. Additionally, I am surprised that the TWRA and TDEC would participate in a land planning discussion closed to members of the public.

I can assure you that this City Council will continue to work toward utilization of the designated portions of the Three Bends Area as indicated in DOE's previous "Self-Sufficiency" agreements. Economic "self-sufficiency" for Oak Ridge is indeed rooted in expansion of the tax base through commercial, residential, and industrial development. We expect to use every means available to see that DOE's "self-sufficiency" commitments are realized and that the Oak Ridge taxpayer is protected from excessive tax rate increases. Nevertheless, the City of Oak Ridge continues its willingness to move forward with meaningful discussions, but only if they involve all interested parties in an open dialogue that will result in a positive outcome for the citizens of Oak Ridge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Bradshaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David R. Bradshaw  
Mayor

cc: TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke  
TWRA Executive Director Gary T. Myers  
Anderson County Mayor Rex Lynch  
Gerald Boyd, DOE ORO Manager