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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 23, 2004

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress
Director
Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, N.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2005 JAN -3 PM 4:17

RE: BZA Application No.17275
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania
2622 16th Street, N.W.

Dear Ms. Kress:

The Department of State hereby provides its comments concerning the application submitted to the Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment ("FMBZA") by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania on November 18, regarding the Embassy's desire to construct an addition to its chancery property located at 2622 16th Street, N.W. The application was submitted pursuant to Section 206 of the Foreign Missions Act (22 U.S.C. §4306.) and D.C. Code 5-1206 and the case is scheduled to be heard on January 25, 2005.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, and pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act, 22 U.S.C. §4301, *et seq.*, particularly sections 4303 and 4306, I hereby convey to the FMBZA the following comments and determinations concerning the subject application. These comments and determinations relate to the statutory criteria governing FMBZA determinations that lie within the purview of the Federal Government, namely 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(1), (4), and (6), as well as the pertinent portion of (d)(3).

First, with respect to the criterion set forth in 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(1), I have determined that favorable FMBZA action on the present application would fulfill the international obligation of the United States to facilitate the acquisition of adequate and secure premises by the Government of Lithuania for its diplomatic mission in Washington.

BZA
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Exhibit No. 24

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17275
EXHIBIT NO. 24

Second, after consultation with Federal agencies authorized to perform protective services, I have determined, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(6), that there exist no special security requirements relating to parking requirements in this case. I have also, after similar consultation, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(4), determined that the subject site and area are capable of being adequately protected.

Third, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(6), I have determined that a favorable decision on this application would serve the federal interest. The United States Embassy in Vilnius is in the process of acquiring additional property adjacent to its chancery to enhance its security. The acquisition process in Vilnius is extensive and complicated, and the Board's favorable decision in this case will assist the Department in completing these important purchases in a timely manner.

For the above reasons, the Department of State supports the application of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania and respectfully urges the FMBZA to act favorably on it.

Sincerely,

Francis X. Taylor
Ambassador