United States Department of State

Office of Foreign Missions
Washington, D.C. 20520

October 3, 2005

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

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RE: BZA Application No.17384
Embassy of the Republic of Moldova
2101 S 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 Moldova on July 15th, regarding the Embassy's desire to install new windows in its chancery property located at 2101 S 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 October 18, 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).

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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 Moldova for

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its diplomatic mission in Washington. The Government of Moldova's chancery property suffers from inadequate heating and cooling due to the dilapidated condition of the current windows, leading to insufficient insulation that results in the Embassy being unable to hold meetings and conduct Embassy business. The installation of new windows will permit the Embassy once again to conduct its business from safe and secure facilities, an important international obligation of the United States.

Second I have determined that, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(6) the subject site and area continue to be 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 Chisinau owns its chancery and Ambassador's residence and the Government of Moldova has been helpful to the United States Embassy in its diplomatic property needs

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

Sincerely,

Richard J. Griffin
Ambassador