

B-95136

December 21, 1979

The Honorable John P. Murtha  
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Murtha:

Subject: [Relocation Of Government Activities  
To Economically Depressed, Labor  
Surplus Communities] (LCD-80-29)

On November 29, 1979, we briefed your staff on the Federal policy of relocating activities from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. This report, in response to your September 10, 1979, request, summarizes that briefing and highlights Federal actions taken.

Since 1962 the Government's policy has been to relocate both civil and defense activities from the Washington area. The President's national urban policy, announced in March 1978, committed the Government to relocate activities and to procure goods and services in economically distressed communities.

In October 1978 the Congress required the Office of Management and Budget to study the decentralization of Federal Government activities. The report, with recommendations, is to be delivered to the Congress on January 10, 1980. We believe the report will answer your questions on the type and number of organizations and their employees which would be affected and the advantages or disadvantages of recommended relocations.

We have received a congressional request to review the report and would be pleased to provide you with our results.

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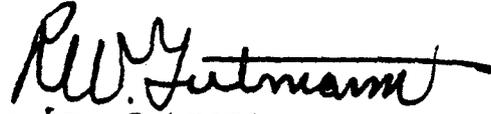


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The key Federal actions which we discussed with your staff assistant are listed in the enclosure.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Gutmann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. W. Gutmann  
Director

Enclosure

FEDERAL RELOCATION POLICY--SOME RELEVANT ACTIONS

1. Executive Order 11035, "Management of Federal Office Space," dated July 9, 1962, established the policy of decentralizing Federal activities in and near the District of Columbia.
2. Bureau of the Budget (now the Office of Management and Budget) Circular No. A-60, "Criteria for decentralizing Federal activities from the National Capital region," dated July 18, 1963, provided general criteria and identified the National Capital region as the District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties of Maryland; and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties of Virginia.
3. Executive Order 11512, "Planning, Acquisition and Management of Federal Space," dated February 27, 1970, superseded Executive Order 11035 but contained the same decentralization policy statement.
4. The Agricultural Act of 1970, as amended by Public Law 92-419, section 601, dated August 30, 1972, required Federal agencies to give "first priority to the location of new offices and other facilities in rural areas as defined in the private business enterprise exception in section 306 (a)(7) of the Consolidated Farmers Home Administration Act of 1961, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1926)."
5. On March 27, 1978, the President, in his message to the Congress on the national urban policy, emphasized the Federal commitment to aid the long-term unemployed and the disadvantaged in cities.
6. Executive Order 12072, "Federal Space Management," dated August 16, 1978, revoked Executive Order 11512 and did not include the policy of decentralization from the National Capital region. The President said the order "will help to put Federal buildings in urban areas, \* \* \* it will tend to move jobs and people and opportunities and growth down to the formerly abandoned central city areas or those that were being abandoned in a slow and inexorable way."

7. On August 18, 1978, the General Services Administration required all its regional offices to develop plans to relocate agencies from suburban areas to central areas of all cities in their respective regions.

8. The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454, section 901) dated October 13, 1978, required the Director, Office of Management and Budget, to study the decentralization of Federal Government activities. The act required (1) a review of the existing geographical distribution of Federal activities throughout the Nation, (2) a review of the possibilities of distributing some of the Federal activities from the District of Columbia to field offices located throughout the Nation, and (3) a report and recommendations to the Congress.