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 COPY

December 13, 2014

Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan
Administrator, NOAA
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

On behalf of the board of directors and the 60 member businesses of the Tucker County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing with comment regarding the status and plans for the "Canaan Valley Institute" building located on Rt. 93 in Tucker County, WV.

It is the Tucker County Chamber of Commerce's opinion that the best use for this building would be allowing the National Youth Science Foundation (NYSF) to occupy it to begin the development of a National Center for Youth Science Education. The property is situated outside of the acquisition boundary for the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge (CVNWR) and the building that CVNWR currently occupies also serves as a visitor's center that is an important addition to the tourism industry in the Valley. Permitting the NYSF to occupy the building benefits the economy of Tucker County through job creation and increased visitation by students from all areas of the country and world that might not have had the opportunity to visit this beautiful area.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



William Smith
Executive Director

cc: Tucker County Commission, Edward Horton, Sec. Sally Jewell, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, Sen Joe Manchin III, Rep. Shelly Moore Capito, Rep. David McKinley, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin, Dr. Michael Martirano, Ronald G. Pearson, **Dr. Andrew Blackwood.**