

**UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON**

FEB - 9 2012

Dear Mr. Denham:

I am writing about the Committee's approval in September 2011 of a Department of State building lease that will consolidate space for our Bureau of Consular Affairs from five locations into one. I want to say "Thank You" for making this happen. For several years, the Department had sought a location where we could co-locate our Consular Affairs staff. The Committee's approval of this lease permits State to take advantage of a rare opportunity for suitable real estate in the Foggy Bottom area.

Among the many benefits, this consolidation provides the Department with an opportunity to improve Consular Affairs' operational management and thus enhance border security; reduces the number of buildings in the State Department inventory; increases our energy efficiency; and reduces operating costs by consolidating infrastructure.

The General Services Administration and State were able to conclude the lease agreement on December 29. We are very excited at the opportunity to consolidate our consular functions in the Foggy Bottom area, and I want to express my gratitude to you for helping to make this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick F. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patrick F. Kennedy

The Honorable  
Jeff Denham, Chairman,  
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and  
Emergency Management,  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,  
House of Representatives.