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kendrickmEEK.house.gov



CONGRESSMAN KENDRICK B. MEEK

June 25, 2007

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Mayor Carlos Alvarez
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 N.W. 1st Street, 29th Floor
Miami, Florida 33128

Dear Mayor Avarez:

I write to ask that Miami-Dade County take immediate steps—today—to prevent the drawdown of any additional federal funds that have been earmarked for the biopharmaceutical park at Poinciana Industrial Park. This includes Section 108 Guaranteed Loans, Economic Development Initiative funds, federal funds available to the Miami-Dade Empowerment Trust and any other federal funds that might be committed to this project. In addition, the County must act immediately to insure that any funds improperly expended in support of the biopharmaceutical park be recovered, including past-due interest on loans guaranteed with federal funds.

My office, both when I was in the State Legislature and now in Congress, and Miami-Dade County, have long sought to attract a tenant to Poinciana that could create jobs and new economic opportunities by leveraging public funds, private investment, federal empowerment zone tax advantages and grants for the training and employment of local residents, and similar benefits available under the state enterprise zone legislation. It appeared that we had such a tenant in the biopharmaceutical park.

However, the recent articles by the Miami Herald raise serious questions about the planning, financing and private-sector support for, and commitment to, this project. In the absence of any proof of these commitments and tighter oversight by the county, this biopharmaceutical park project does not merit public investment.

At the same time, I want to insure that these federal funds, which were intended to spur public-private investment at Poinciana Industrial Park, remain available for that purpose and are not diverted elsewhere. If it is necessary to formally reprogram these funds to insure that they continue to be committed to the development of Poinciana, please contact me and I will work for the appropriate legislative or administrative remedy.

Thank you for your kind attention to this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendrick B. MEEK". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

KENDRICK B. MEEK
Member of Congress

CC: Honorable Bruno A. Barreiro Chairman,
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners
George M. Burgess, County Manager
Aundra Wallace, Chief Executive Officer
Miami-Dade Empowerment Trust, Inc.