

September 15, 2003

Ms. Bennie Ruth Parks
Hinds Street Baptist Church
P.O. Box 5084
Greenville, Mississippi 38704

Dear Ms. Parks:

I am writing to inform you that Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman, Pete Johnson, has informed our office in unequivocal terms that he would veto your grant application in the instance that it came before the Board for a vote. As you know, the Governor has supported your project throughout this process. It is with great disappointment that we share the Federal Co-Chairman's decision with you.

As provided for in federal code, the Federal Co-Chairman has veto power over all projects and his intent to not fund this project is made clear in the enclosed letter. Federal Co-Chairman Johnson writes:

"I have shared with you and the Board that the Congress which appropriates funds for the DRA has made it very clear that the DRA not fund programs that are a duplication of existing programs. As you know, there are currently four existing GED programs in Washington County and to fund a fifth program rather than enhance those already in existence would fly in the face of Congressional intent and could jeopardize DRA's future funding. As the federal co-chairman and the federal representative on the Board, I would be duty bound as are all Board members to not vote in favor of this project if it were presented for a vote."

Please know that we disagree with the Federal Co-Chairman's opinion of your project and have shared our disappointment with him as well. Unfortunately, his veto power gives him the final say in this matter.

As always, we appreciate your work on behalf of the citizens of Greenville and Washington County. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Armerita Tell, Director
Office of Citizen and Community Services

Enclosure

cc: Congressman Bennie Thompson