

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-126, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George Voinovich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Committee on Appropriations
B-307 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Byrd, Ranking Member Voinovich, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Rogers:

As you work to finalize the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010, we urge you to include \$50 million as provided in the House-passed bill for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, a sum which includes \$10 million for radiation portal monitors and \$40 million for the Securing the Cities (STC) Initiative. This funding will enable continued advancement of the national nuclear detection architecture, and the successful continuation of an unprecedented collaborative effort that helps protect the nation from a terrorist attack carried out with a radiological or nuclear weapon.

STC not only benefits the greater New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut regions, but also the nation, which would suffer consequential economic damages if a nuclear or dirty bomb were detonated in the New York tri-state region. For the past three years, both the House and the Senate have deemed STC important enough to receive Federal support. The House, by a strong bipartisan vote of 282-148, restored funding to previous levels, sending a clear message that continuation of the program with \$40 million for FY 2010 was the right choice. The Senate also recognized the importance of STC by including \$10 million in its Homeland Security Appropriations bill to continue the program's funding. The Senate funding level, however, is not sufficient to allow STC to reach its full potential to interdict a nuclear or dirty bomb. Nor will this level permit replication of this highly successful program in other urban areas at high risk of such an attack.

The STC Initiative provides funds to implement a unified strategy for defending against radiological and nuclear threats. STC is both a regional capability and a national asset. It provides an operational capacity to interdict a radiological or nuclear weapon in one city, which can prevent that weapon from being delivered and detonated elsewhere in the nation. It can also

prevent the widespread economic damages that would be associated with a detonation in the New York tri-state region. More work toward equipment acquisition, research and development, and enhancement of operational capabilities remains, and the New York Police Department plans to direct FY 2010 funding toward these types of activities. Most problematically, without additional funding, neither completion of detection work and sensor networking nor replication in other high risk areas will be possible.

STC is an excellent example of the type of coordination among Federal, state, and local partners that the Department of Homeland Security has worked so hard to facilitate, and which the Congress has demanded. Furthermore, the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism recently found that nuclear terrorism is an area of increased risk. Terminating the investment in this critical program abdicates the Federal Government's responsibility to advance a nuclear detection architecture in a world where the threat of nuclear terrorism continues to increase.

We urge you to support the House provision that would provide full funding for Securing the Cities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



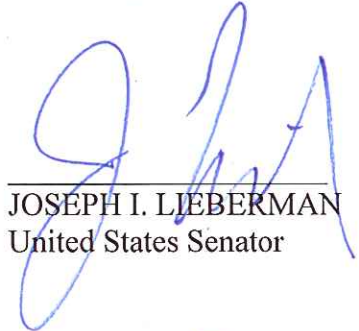
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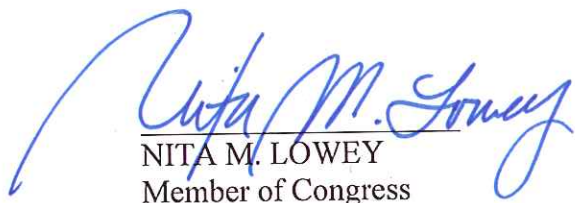
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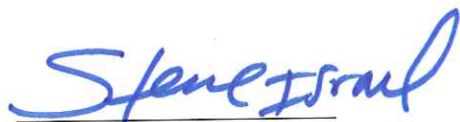



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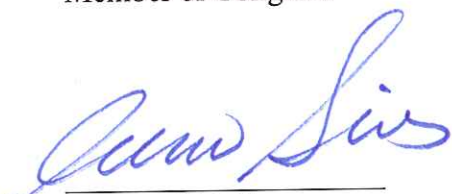

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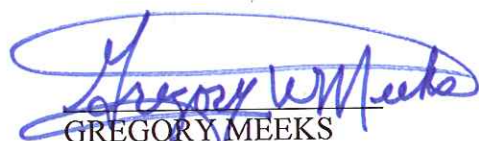

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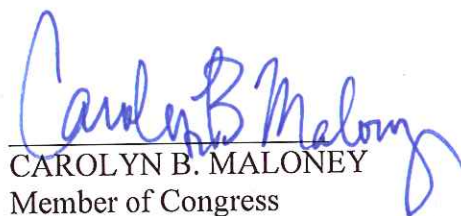

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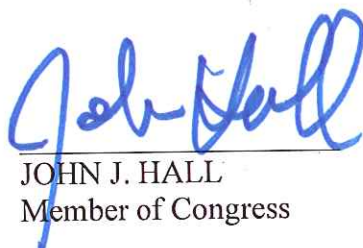

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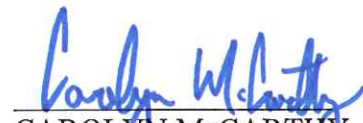

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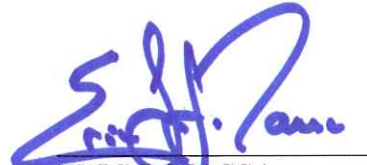

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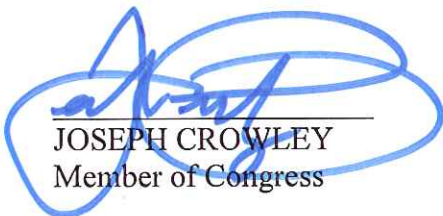

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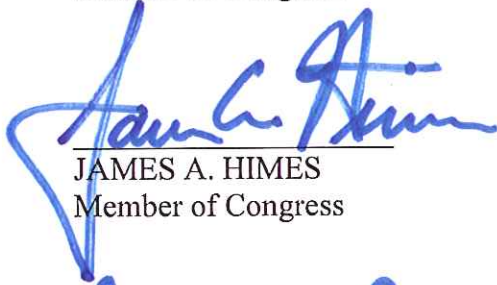
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