



November 18, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Majority Leader  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Whip  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Republican Conference Chairman  
The Honorable James Lankford  
Republican Policy Committee Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Democratic Whip  
The Honorable James Clyburn  
Assistant Democratic Leader  
The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Democratic Caucus Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of House Leadership,

We write to draw your attention to concerns about law enforcement's ability to build on improvements in information sharing and analysis related to terrorism and other threats to the homeland. Last week our organizations sent a letter (attached) to the chairman and ranking member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) outlining issues regarding the interaction between the Department of Homeland Security and state and local public safety to identify and prevent threats to the homeland. We want to ensure that important advances in homeland security threat information sharing are not degraded.

The 9/11 Commission – which you helped to make happen – made groundbreaking recommendations to improve information sharing among law enforcement, first responders, the private sector, and federal agencies. The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 and the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 put in place critical information sharing frameworks to ensure the 700,000-plus law enforcement personnel in the United States could be leveraged to enhance homeland security.

An essential part of that framework is the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis and the support it provides to state and local law enforcement in sharing threat-

related information with the field, and ensuring that information from the field is shared with our federal partners leading counterterrorism investigations.

The National Network of Fusion Centers is a centerpiece of the homeland security information sharing enterprise. The network of state and locally owned and operated fusion centers is where suspicious activities reported by first responders and communities are analyzed and shared with the FBI and other federal partners. It is also where national level threat information is shared with state and local public safety agencies so that the information can be put in proper local context and enable state and local executives to deploy resources and make relevant information accessible to our federal partners investigating threats.

You played a key role in ensuring the 2004 and 2007 laws were enacted. Those laws ushered in a new era of information sharing and intergovernmental collaboration. The result has been an unprecedented level of analysis and sharing of information on a host of threats to the homeland and to public safety broadly.

The DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis provides important analytical products to fusion centers and to state and local law enforcement in general. The Intelligence Officers (IOs) that DHS has assigned forward into fusion centers are critical to our ability to engage with federal partners on threats. Both of these efforts should be strengthened, yet we are concerned that some want to degrade these capabilities.

Good policy is in place today – and improvements in information sharing on threats against the homeland continue at a rapid pace. We want to ensure these gains are preserved and enhanced, and that we do not take a step backward in our ability to protect our communities.

Sincerely,



Chief Yousry Zakhary  
President  
International Association of Chiefs of Police



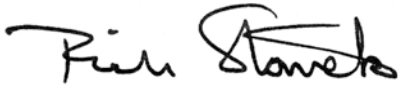
Mike Sena  
President  
National Fusion Center Association



Commissioner Charles Ramsey  
President  
Major Cities Chiefs Police Association



Aaron D. Kennard, Sheriff (Ret.)  
Executive Director  
National Sheriffs' Association



Richard W. Stanek  
President, Major County Sheriffs' Association  
Sheriff, Hennepin County (MN)



Ronald C. Sloan  
President, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies  
Director, Colorado Bureau of Investigation