



November 14, 2013

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chairman  
The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Ruppersberger:

In July we wrote to you regarding concern with provisions being contemplated for FY 2014 Intelligence authorization legislation that would be a step backward in collaboration on homeland security threats among federal, state, local and tribal governments. We write today to reiterate our concerns and strongly urge the committee to avoid taking steps that would weaken information sharing and analysis on threats facing the homeland.

Those threats are not abating. From homegrown violent extremists to cyber threats, and from transnational organized crime to lone-offender shooters, state, local, and tribal law enforcement are constantly answering calls for help from our citizens and are engaged with federal partners to detect and prevent threats where possible, and respond and investigate in the event of violence.

The transformation we have seen in domestic threat analysis, collaboration, and information sharing since 2001 has been remarkable. The volume and relevance of information shared up and down the chain is unprecedented. The engagement of DHS's Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) with our members has been a critical part of that success.

Direct daily interaction between Intelligence Officers (IOs) deployed in fusion centers enables access to information and perspective on homeland intelligence products that cannot be replicated. Likewise, I&A is distinct among federal partners in providing useful intelligence to the field so that we can put local context around threats. In addition, the value of support provided by I&A and the IOs to state and

local preparedness and response efforts during disasters was clear at the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC) in the aftermath of the marathon bombing, and at the New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC) in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

This is why we are concerned about any consideration of taking those resources away from us. The 9/11 Commission recommendations are as relevant as ever. Why would we move in a direction of less coordination and less information sharing? We strongly urge the committee to avoid this direction. Intelligence officers should remain forward deployed in our fusion centers, and I&A analysis should be strengthened.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.


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

Cc: Chairman Michael McCaul, Ranking Member Bennie Thompson – House  
Committee on Homeland Security