



One Hundred Twelfth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2012

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

As you work to craft the guidance for the Fiscal Year 2013 preparedness grant programs, we write to request that you follow congressional intent and refrain from implementing portions of the National Preparedness Grant Program proposed in the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget request.

As you know, the proposal to consolidate numerous preparedness grant programs into a new National Preparedness Grant Program was met with great concern by bipartisan Members of Congress and Senators and many stakeholder groups. The proposal lacked sufficient detail and outreach to the stakeholders who would be impacted by the proposed change. More than seven months after the President's budget request was submitted to Congress and despite repeated requests for additional detail on how this program would be administered, questions remain about the impact of the proposed changes on grant recipients.

The proposed National Preparedness Grant Program is a significant departure from the authorizing language of the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative, and Transit Security Grant Program in the *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007* (P.L. 110-53) and Port Security Grant Program in the *Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act of 2006* (P.L. 109-347). Implementing the National Preparedness Grant Program will require new authorizing language, a fact acknowledged by the Fiscal Year 2013 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Acts considered by the House of Representatives and Senate Committee on Appropriations, which both denied the Administration's request to implement this program through the Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations process.

We agree with the report language accompanying S. 3216, the Fiscal Year 2013 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. "[T]he reform proposal in the budget leaves key questions unanswered such as, how risk assessments will

be used in determining the distribution of resources, and to whom Federal resources will be allocated.”¹ The report language accompanying the House bill, H.R. 5855, notes that the request was “denied due to the lack of Congressional authorization and the lack of the necessary details that are require for the initiation of a new program to include grant guidance and implementation plan.”² Both reports direct the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to work with our Committee on any proposed changes to the authorizing statutes for these programs. Until such time as those statutory changes occur, it would be premature and against clearly expressed congressional intent for you to implement the National Preparedness Grant Program through grant guidance or other administrative means.

We share your interest in ensuring that the Federal resources going to support the security efforts of our Nation’s law enforcement, first responders, and emergency management officials are used efficiently and effectively. However, as you develop the Fiscal Year 2013 grant guidance, we urge you to follow congressional intent and fund the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative, Transit Security Grant Program, and Port Security Grant Program as currently authorized.

Sincerely,



PETER T. KING
Chairman



GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Chairman
Subcommittee on Emergency
Preparedness, Response, and
Communications

cc: The Honorable Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security

Ms. Elizabeth Harman, Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security

¹ S. REP. NO. 112-169, at 113 (2012).

² H.R. REP. NO. 112-492, at 115 (2012).