

Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council

Letter of Endorsement

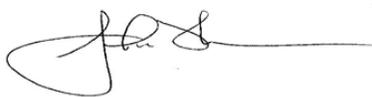
The Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council (ESSCC or SCC) is a coordinating body established in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security's National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP). Its membership represents various stakeholders from across the spectrum of emergency services activities, including emergency management, emergency medical services, law enforcement, fire-rescue, and other specialized emergency response functions. As part of a collaborative effort with Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial government as well as the private sector, the ESSCC seeks to protect the infrastructure of the emergency services sector so that it can retain the capability to protect others.

This letter from the ESSCC endorses the National Homeland Security Consortium's white paper *Protecting Americans in the 21st Century: Imperatives for the Homeland*. The Consortium identifies three major challenges it confronts: a rapidly changing and diverse set of security threats, transitions in federal leadership, and the necessity for a collaborative national policy discussion at all levels. In order to confront these challenges, the white paper outlines several areas on which to focus its actions on, including communication and collaboration; intelligence and information sharing; clarification of the role of the military within the homeland; improvement of health and medical readiness; resiliency of critical infrastructure; assessment of surge capacity and a unified national capabilities approach; sustained resources and capabilities; and immigration and border security.

The ESSCC recognizes the mutual goal of the Consortium to create a collaborative, consistent, and comprehensive framework to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threats to the homeland. Many of the activities and initiatives undertaken by the SCC coincide with the strategic objectives of the Consortium. For example, the SCC promotes an equal partnership among all levels of government and private sector members of the Emergency Services Sector. Information sharing is a priority for the SCC, which works collaboratively with the Department of Homeland Security and responders on developing effective information sharing processes. The SCC also acknowledges the interdependencies of the eighteen Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources sectors, as defined by the NIPP, and strives to utilize these interdependencies for efforts such as the enhancement of healthcare and public health preparedness.

The Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council fully supports the mission of the National Homeland Security Consortium to continue working towards securing the homeland and looks forward to any future collaboration with the Consortium.

Respectfully,



John Thompson
National Sheriffs' Association
Chair, ESSCC