

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
SD-135
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Chairwoman Landrieu:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we urge you to restore the unnecessary and dangerous cuts to first responder grant programs included in the House-passed bill, H.R. 2017.

By providing just \$1 billion for FEMA's State and Local Programs, more than 65 percent below the Administration request, the House-passed proposal will leave communities across the country unprepared to address potential threats. Further, with intelligence gathered at Osama bin Laden's compound indicating a clear intent to strike our nation's railways, slashing the Transit Security Grant Program would be unconscionable.

Additionally, while the House restored \$320 million in Firefighter Assistance Grants on the floor, H.R. 2017 still provides a woefully inadequate level of assistance to our firefighters. If we do not increase funding for firefighter grants we will shift the burden to local communities to either slash services or increase taxes to ensure adequate fire coverage.

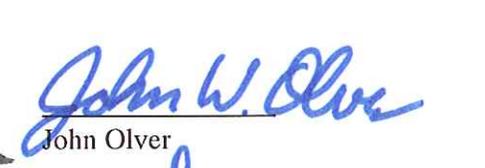
We all agree that difficult spending choices must be made to reduce the deficit. However, the cuts included in H.R. 2017 are simply dangerous choices that will endanger our homeland security.

We urge you to restore funding for first responder programs in the Subcommittee mark and look forward to working together to ensure our nation is protected.

Sincerely,


Nita M. Lowey


Laura Richardson


John W. Olver


Joseph Crowley


Peter T. King


Bennie G. Thompson

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David Cicilline

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