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March 30, 2010

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) recently held its 2010 Mid-Year Conference during which the State Directors of Emergency Management unanimously approved two recommendations for your consideration.

**Recommendation #1: Intelligence Information Sharing**

The Federal government should provide intelligence information to the State Homeland Security Advisors and State Emergency Management Directors simultaneous with fusion centers. It has been reported to NEMA that variances in processes and timelines for vetting and sharing information received in fusion centers has led to delays in some states for the HSA and/or EM Directors to be able to provide briefings and answer questions from their Governors. We understand this may not be the case in all states; however, there is no reason why information cannot be shared simultaneously with those state officials who have designated responsibilities for homeland security and the appropriate security clearances. NEMA would also recommend that DHS work with us and the Governor's Homeland Security Advisors Council to determine which products should be shared.

**Recommendation #2: Fusion Centers Funding**

NEMA recognizes the importance and value of fusion centers and effective information sharing among federal, state, tribal and local governmental first responders and our other terrorism prevention partners. NEMA encourages DHS to seek a long term funding solution that will support the continued development and sustainment of fusion centers and note the particular importance of funding for personnel to achieve and maintain necessary staffing levels. While together we seek a more permanent funding solution for our fusion centers, it is important that if existing grant programs are to be utilized to support fusion centers that DHS provide the greatest



flexibility possible in any guidance issued by the Department. Fusion centers obviously benefit our state, local, tribal and non-governmental partners and it is therefore important to provide flexibility for balancing investments across jurisdictions and with existing all-hazards investment needs if current grant programs will be utilized to provide fusion centers with additional resources.

We would be pleased to discuss these recommendations with you and your staff. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (501) 683-7834 or Joe Wainscott, NEMA Homeland Security Committee Chair at (317) 232-8236.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Maxwell". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dave Maxwell  
NEMA President

Cc: Caryn Wagner, DHS Under Secretary, Intelligence and  
Analysis  
Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator

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