



Supporting Those Who Serve



November 28, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair
The Honorable Dan Coats, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Landrieu, and Coats:

We write on behalf of local elected officials, emergency managers, major city police chiefs, sheriffs, and members of the fire service to express our concern with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) intent to implement the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 and to urge Congress to take action to assure this does not happen.

We understand that efforts are underway to craft an omnibus appropriations bill during the lame duck session. We urge you to include the following provisions relating to the homeland security grant programs in any appropriations measures:

- Language which would prohibit FEMA from implementing the NPGP in FY 2013.
- The Senate's approach to providing FY 2013 funding so that there will be individual appropriations for each homeland security grant program, including the State Homeland Security and Urban Areas Security Initiative grant programs.
- The House's total funding level of \$1.53 billion for the homeland security grant programs.

Our organizations first learned of FEMA's plans to move ahead with NPGP during the agency's 2012 National Preparedness Symposium held August 7-9 in which staff from the Grants Directorate stated that FEMA will move forward with the NPGP in FY 2013. More recently, on October 1, we met with Elizabeth Harman, then FEMA Assistant Administrator for the Grants Program Directorate, to express our concerns with FEMA's intent to move forward with the NPGP despite Congressional opposition to the proposal for this year as well as the opposition of our organizations. We were told that this is an Administration initiative and FEMA intends to move forward with it and believes it has sufficient authority under existing law to implement significant portions of it.

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees rejected the NPGP for FY 2013, saying it lacked the detail required for a new program. The committee report to S 3216 said that "the 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." It directs the Secretary of Homeland Security and FEMA Administrator "to refine the proposal and include enough detail for the appropriate committees of jurisdiction and the general public to understand: how funds will be allocated; to whom; and for what purpose" in time to be considered as part of the FY 2014 budget process.

Our organizations have developed and agreed upon a set of principles for reforming the homeland security grant programs: transparency, local involvement, flexibility and accountability, local funding, terrorism prevention, and incentives for regionalization. We look forward to working with Congress and the Administration next year to develop changes to the programs that are consistent with these principles and will improve them in the years ahead.

If we can provide any further information or assistance, please contact us through the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Public Safety Director, Laura DeKoven Waxman, at (202) 861-6754 or lwaxman@usmayors.org.

Sincerely,

National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
The United States Conference of Mayors
U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA)
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters
National Volunteer Fire Council
Congressional Fire Services Institute
National Sheriffs' Association
Major County Sheriffs' Association
Major Cities Chiefs Association
National Homeland Security Association



Supporting Those Who Serve



November 28, 2012

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Government Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Government Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Lieberman and Collins:

We write on behalf of local elected officials, emergency managers, major city police chiefs, sheriffs, and members of the fire service to express our concern with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) intent to implement the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 and to urge Congress to take action to assure this does not happen.

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Supporting Those Who Serve



November 28, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman
The Honorable Norm Dicks, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chairman
The Honorable David Price, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Rogers, Mr. Dicks, Mr. Aderholt, and Mr. Price:

We write on behalf of local elected officials, emergency managers, major city police chiefs, sheriffs, and members of the fire service to express our concern with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) intent to implement the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 and to urge Congress to take action to assure this does not happen.

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Both the House and Senate Committees rejected the NPGP for FY 2013, saying it lacked the detail required for a new program. The committee report to HR. 5855 directed FEMA to work with the authorizing committees to develop a reform proposal that could be considered in future years. The committee report also commented that the committee heard from numerous stakeholders who expressed concern with the grant proposal and with the lack of outreach to them before it was announced in the President's FY 2013 budget. The report said that the committee "considers this lack of outreach concerning and it should be addressed."

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November 28, 2012

The Honorable Peter King, Chairman
The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis, Chairman
The Honorable Laura Richardson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness,
Response and Communications
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. King, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Bilirakis, and Ms. Richardson:

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