

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

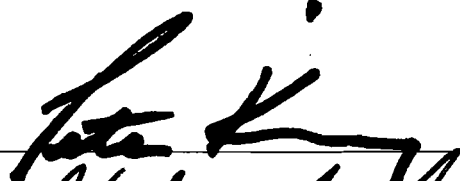
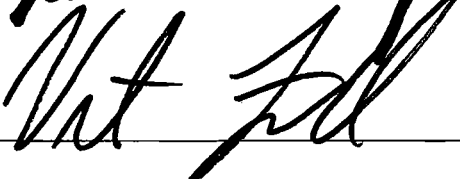
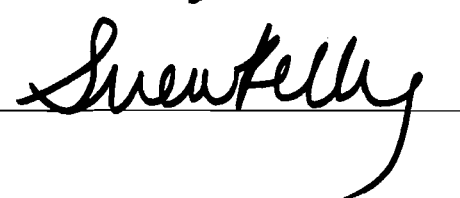
Dear Secretary Chertoff:

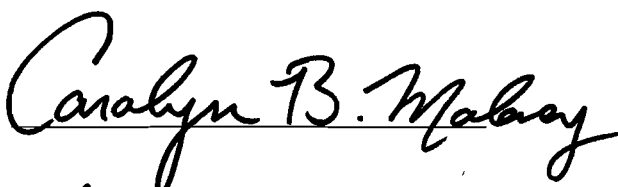

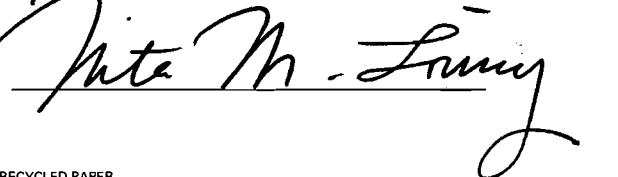
We are writing to request a meeting between you and the New York Congressional Delegation to discuss the distribution of the FY2006 Homeland Security Grant Program allocations. We are specifically concerned about New York State's dramatic drop in funding, especially considering that this was the first year that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was supposed to use risk as a factor in the distribution of these funds.

Under any analysis of risk, we cannot understand how New York State could suffer a \$114 million decline in overall funding and an almost \$93 million dollar reduction in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) or "high threat" funding. New York City alone has seen a reduction of high threat funding from \$207 million to \$125 million, an unexplainable 40% drop, while the Buffalo-Niagara region has seen its allocation nearly cut in half. To make matters worse, in the apparent justification of this distribution DHS only recognizes four major financial assets at risk, and no national monuments or icons in New York City. This is amazing considering that New York has been attacked in the past and continues to be a target because we are the financial center of the country and an iconic symbol of America to many around the world. Certainly, previous stories about the risk to the Brooklyn Bridge or the international prominence of the Empire State Building, Times Square, the Statute of Liberty, among many others, would be considered in any evaluation of risk and vulnerability.

It is clear to us that the current distributions do not hold up to any scrutiny or argument that they are based on risk. However, we would like answers as to how a funding program based on risk has resulted in the current deep cuts to New York.

Sincerely,

James T. Walsh Louis M. Slaughter
~~William R. McHugh~~ Joe E. Evans

Gary L. Ackerman Nedra H. Velazquez

Tony J. Eric L. Enage

~~Gregory W. Mueke~~

~~Steve Ira~~ Brian Higgins

John Shuman ~~John~~

Thomas M. Reynolds Carolyn McElathay

Charles D. Angel Brian R. Owens

Randy Kuhl Monica D. Hendry

Sherry Bechtel Steve

John W. McHugh