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June 23, 2003

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The Honorable Tom Ridge
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Ridge:

I am writing to express concern regarding your recent comments on homeland security funding for America's states and towns. Specifically, you said last week in a television interview that the notion that there is not enough homeland security money for our local governments is "misinformation." (*Good Morning America*, June 17, 2003) In light of that comment and your agency's recent publicity campaign to announce federal money for various states, I am concerned that it is your agency that might be providing the less than accurate information.

As Chair of the Democratic Task Force on Homeland Security, I have spoken with many local and state officials who are still in dire need of resources to protect their states and towns, especially in tough economic times, such as these. They are grateful for the latest homeland security grants, but are still very concerned that the funds that are now coming will not be enough to reimburse them for the expenses they have incurred and continue to incur.

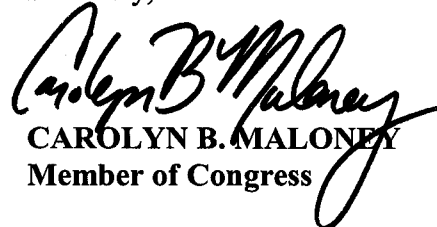
Furthermore, I am concerned that your public presentations over-shadow the fact that many high-risk cities - such as New York City, my hometown - still have not received a cent of homeland security money from the 2003 state block grants awarded months ago.

In fact, states and local governments may be confused by your recent publicity campaign, which has announced funds that were previously announced in April.

So many men and women who are securing our hometowns are concerned that sufficient funding has not arrived and is not expected to arrive in the near future. I would ask that your Department cease announcing funds that have been previously announced and concentrate on getting the actual funds into the hands of governors and mayors.

I thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to continuing a discussion about how best to make our hometowns safe.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress