



National Association of Regional Councils

1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20009
202.986.1032 (tel) 202.986.1038 (fax)
www.narc.org

July 9, 2007

The Honorable Robert Byrd
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
131-S Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
146A-S Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Byrd and Ranking Member Cochran,
The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) applauds and supports the Appropriations Subcommittee's work and passage of S.1644, the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, which allots \$37.6 billion in funding, \$3.4 billion more than the White House and \$1.3 billion more than H.R. 2638, the House companion bill. We support this bill and urge prompt full Committee passage because it provides sustained and increased homeland security dollars to local and regional governments for their necessary implementation of essential regional strategies that promote innovation and sustain the nation's strong posture pre and post-disaster.

In order for communities and regions to plan, prepare and respond to natural and manmade disasters, adequate federal funding is required for development. The State and Local Programs, including but not limited to the Urban Security Area Initiative (UASI), Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grants, infrastructure protection grants writ-large, and Citizen Corp, provide opportunities for regions to improve interoperability, preparedness and response, which are invaluable resources to our nation's citizens and the communities they live. We are pleased the Committee recognizes the value localities and regions are providing for homeland security initiatives.

In addition to our support, NARC, which represents regional councils, councils of governments, and metropolitan planning organizations who, in turn, represent local elected officials nationwide, offers its assistance for any regional homeland security issue that might arise. We thank you for your efforts and look forward to working with you. Feel free to contact me at any time at 202.986.1032, x.213 or cmoore@narc.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Cameron Moore
Executive Director