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February 9, 2015

The Honorable John Hoeven Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Homeland Security 338 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Homeland Security 520 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Shaheen:

I write on behalf of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) and their training and executives nationwide to express our support of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) in the FY 2016 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

The NDPC is a primary training partner of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Preparedness Directorate's National Training and Education Division. The NDPC provides critical training for counter-terrorism preparedness needs of the nation's emergency first responders within the context of all hazards including chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) hazards. IADLEST membership has been integrating this training into their basic academies, augmenting continuing education mandates, and the continual support which it receives from the consortium as well as technical assistance from their subject matter experts.

In this austere budgetary climate, your subcommittee has been given an unpleasant task of setting priorities among current programs - a number of which are important to many different stakeholder groups. As you decide how funding levels are to be set, we ask that training for first responders remain a priority in defending our nation's citizens and communities.

Training for homeland security is a top priority for the nation's law enforcement academies. Accordingly, the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training appreciates your committee's continued funding and support of the NDPC.

Respectfully yours,

Mike Becar Executive Director

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