



John W Thompson
Interim Executive Director

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

January 22, 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 National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide to express our support of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) in the FY2016 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. NSA membership depends on this training and continual support which it receives from the consortium as well as technical assistance from their subject matter experts. This is further exemplified by NSA partnering with the NDPC on the development of courses specific to the needs of sheriffs and their role in homeland security and natural disasters.

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 sheriffs. Accordingly, the National Sheriffs' Association appreciates your committee's continued funding and support of the NDPC.

Respectfully yours,

Chief (ret.) John Thompson
Interim Executive Director