

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2007

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

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

We are writing to express our strong concern and disappointment following the announcement that Massachusetts will receive significant cuts in homeland security funding in Fiscal Year 2007. We also note that in FY07, Boston was designated a Tier 2 metropolitan area, representing the Department of Homeland Security's assessment that it faces lower security risks than the Tier 1 areas. We strongly disagree with this conclusion. The Department's classification of the Boston area in Tier 2 is inconsistent with the sizeable population in the greater Boston region, extensive transportation infrastructure and additional critical assets that require enhanced funding and should qualify the Boston region as a Tier 1 metropolitan area for purposes of the homeland security grant program.

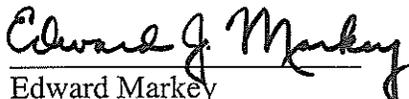
The Boston area's inclusion in Tier 2 significantly limited the potential funding it could receive in FY07, as 43 cities in Tier 2 were competing for 45 percent of the \$750 million total, compared to only 7 metropolitan areas in Tier 1 that will share the majority of the FY07 funding. Accordingly, we request a full explanation of the Department of Homeland Security's grant funding allocation decisions for the FY 2007 round of Homeland Security Grant Program for Massachusetts. We also request that the Department reconsider its designation of the Boston area within Tier 2 and include it among the top high-risk cities within Tier 1.

We recognize the Department's need to make difficult funding choices. Nevertheless, we believe that Massachusetts faces unique security challenges, and homeland security grant levels should be commensurate with the severity of these challenges. Specifically, Boston is home to industries that are key to the economic vitality of Massachusetts and the entire New England region. Our busy cargo port, containing the nation's only urban liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal, drives commercial activities not only around the state and region, but also around the world. Critical infrastructure and iconic American symbols make Massachusetts an attractive terrorist target. As you know, more than five years ago, Boston's Logan Airport was the launch point for the two planes that struck the World Trade Center towers on September 11th, and one of the terrorists involved in the foiled Millennium Plot that targeted Los Angeles International Airport, Abdelghani Meskini, infiltrated our country aboard an LNG tanker that docked at the terminal in Everett, MA.

Massachusetts will receive approximately \$34 million in homeland security grants for first responders this fiscal year. This represents a \$7 million, or 17 percent, reduction from last year. Although the overall funding level for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) remained approximately the same in FY07 compared to last fiscal year, the Boston region's share declined by 22 percent. Moreover, Boston received the 9th largest cut in UASI funding over this same time period. We believe that the Boston area, with its high population density and considerable critical infrastructure that already has been targeted by terrorists, should receive a share of federal security funding that is consistent with the heightened security risks we face.

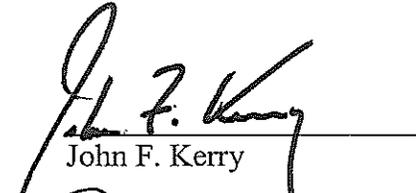
Please provide a detailed written explanation of how the Department arrived at its funding allocation decisions for Massachusetts' share of these programs as well as why the Department designated the Boston area in Tier 2. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Mark Bayer or Michal Freedhoff at 202-225-2836 in Rep. Markey's office.

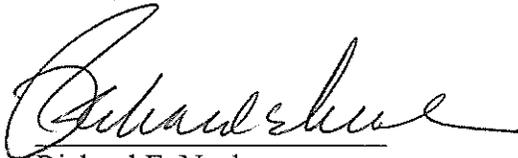
Sincerely,

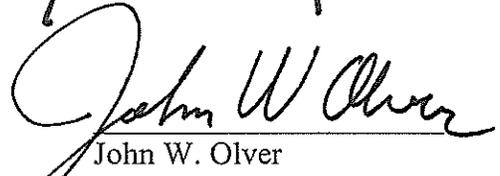

Edward Markey

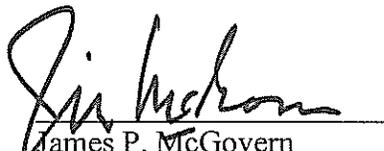

Edward M. Kennedy


Barney Frank


John F. Kerry


Richard E. Neal

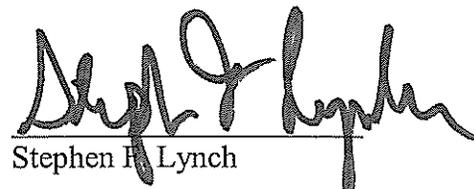

John W. Olver


James P. McGovern


William D. Delahunt


Michael E. Capuano


John F. Tierney


Stephen H. Lynch