



March 8, 2016

The Honorable Brian Moran
Secretary
Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable John Harvey
Secretary
Office of Veterans and Defense Affairs
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Secretary Moran and Secretary Harvey:

We write to formally request the Commonwealth's assistance in ensuring that the Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News MSA (Hampton Roads) receives proper consideration and adequate funding under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Urban Area Security Grant Initiative (UASI).

As you are aware, the UASI program provides assistance to high-threat, high-density urban areas in order to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism. With a population of approximately 1.82 million, Hampton Roads is home to the largest naval base in the world, over 125,600 active duty and civilian defense personnel performing \$8.7 billion in DoD contracts, five of our 10 carrier strike groups, the third largest commercial port in the country (based on tonnage), and significant industrial base capabilities including the only private U.S. shipyard capable of building aircraft carriers and the only public shipyard on the east coast capable of repairing aircraft carriers. These assets call for the highest levels of vigilance and protection, and are greatly deserving of UASI funding.

We respectfully request your specific assistance in addressing this issue on our region's behalf with the following:

First, we request an opportunity to provide you with the latest information on critical infrastructure assets concentrated in Hampton Roads. We want to ensure the Commonwealth has the most up-to-date information to accurately convey this information to DHS.

Second, we request that the Commonwealth seek a classified briefing from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis at DHS regarding its threat analysis for Hampton Roads. We ask that appropriate representatives with the required security clearances from the region be permitted to attend this briefing. Based upon our initial review, it appears that DHS is underestimating the real threat potential for our region.

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Third, we request that the Commonwealth formally weigh-in with Congress on the Obama Administration's proposed \$270 million reduction in funding for the UASI program in fiscal year 2017 and ask that the program be fully funded at \$600 million, exclusive of the non-profit UASI program.

Finally, we respectfully ask the Commonwealth to formally weigh-in with Congress regarding current report language included in the 2016 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, which limits UASI funding allocations "*to urban areas representing up to 85 percent of such risk...*" This change in language led to the exclusion of UASI funding for Hampton Roads this year. Accordingly, we are asking the Commonwealth to urge Congress to modify this language in the fiscal year 2017 Homeland Security Appropriations Act to include urban areas representing 90% of the cumulative national terrorism risk in order to include Hampton Roads.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can offer in helping to resolve our UASI ineligibility.

Respectfully,



Clyde A. Haulman
Chair, Hampton Roads Planning
District Commission



McKinley L. Price, DDS
Chair, Hampton Roads Military and
Federal Facilities Alliance