



July 17, 2013

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Thompson, and Ranking Member Ruppersberger:

We are writing to express opposition and serious concern with a House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence proposal that would dramatically change the relationship between the Department of Homeland Security and the National Network of Fusion Centers, and negatively impact the ability of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) to support the national homeland security mission.

Specifically we are concerned about proposals to redeploy DHS Intelligence Officers (IOs) from individual fusion centers to the 12 DNI regions, and to restrict I&A's ability to develop certain analytical products that are consumed by fusion centers and state and local law enforcement.

From the state and local operational perspective, the effect of these proposals would be decreased analysis and information sharing on threats impacting our jurisdictions, and a decrease in our ability to provide information to our federal partners in support of a range of investigations including terrorism. Redeploying IOs to the 12 federal DNI regions would sever the critical tie between state and local information and its potential nexus to national security threats, as originally envisioned in the 9/11 Commission recommendations.

As we understand them, these proposals would represent a decreased commitment by Congress and the federal government to analysis and sharing of information on all threats. If enacted, this would put in reverse the progress we have made over the past decade.

The state and local law enforcement community has dedicated an enormous amount of effort in recent years in collaboration with DHS, DOJ, FBI, ODNI, PM-ISE and others to enhance our collective ability to protect American citizens through better analysis and sharing of criminal and terrorism intelligence. The partnerships that have been developed thus far have resulted in unprecedented coordination and countless successes in our communities.

We are committed to continuous improvement and would like to work closely with your committees on ideas to enhance our overall capabilities and ensure good return on investment at all levels. Unfortunately, the HPSCI proposals under consideration do not reflect the interests of the National Network of Fusion Centers, or of state and local law enforcement as a whole. We urge opposition to these proposals.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Chief Craig Steckler
President
International Association of Chiefs of Police



Mike Sena
President
National Fusion Center Association



Commissioner Charles Ramsey
President
Major Cities Chiefs Police Association



Aaron D. Kennard, Sheriff (Ret.)
Executive Director
National Sheriffs' Association



Richard W. Stanek
President, Major County Sheriffs' Association
Sheriff, Hennepin County (MN)



Ronald C. Sloan
President, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
Director, Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Cc: Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss – Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Cc: Chairman Tom Carper, Ranking Member Tom Coburn – Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Cc: Chairman Hal Rogers, Ranking Member Nita Lowey – House Committee on Appropriations

Cc: Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski, Ranking Member Richard Shelby – Senate Committee on Appropriations