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December 1, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Majority Leader:

I am writing to express the strong opposition of the Nation's largest police departments to S. 3194, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act. This legislation will diminish public safety by limiting the ability of state and local governments to manage their work force in a manner that is most effective and meets local needs.

Congressionally mandated unionization of the public safety workforce amounts to the federalization of what is rightly a local issue—managing municipal public safety workers. In law enforcement's case, this measure would divert valuable and scarce resources from essential law enforcement missions to collective bargaining administration.

This measure limits the rights of state and local government to establish their own workforce policies for public safety personnel. Enacting this bill trumps existing state laws governing employee/employer relationships. Never before has Congress asserted authority over state legislatures regarding the sensitive issue of public safety personnel.

For these reasons, the Major Cities Chiefs Association opposes the so-called Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act. We urge Congress not to pass such damaging legislation. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Ramsey
Police Commissioner, Philadelphia
President, Major Cities Chiefs' Association