

JAMES M. JEFFORDS, VERMONT, CHAIRMAN

MAX BAUCUS, MONTANA
 HARRY REID, NEVADA
 BOB GRAHAM, FLORIDA
 JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
 BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA
 RON WYDEN, OREGON
 THOMAS A. CARPER, DELAWARE
 HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, NEW YORK
 JON S. CORZINE, NEW JERSEY

BOB SMITH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 JOHN W. WARNER, VIRGINIA
 JAMES M. INHOFE, OKLAHOMA
 CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
 GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
 MICHAEL B. CRAPO, IDAHO
 LINCOLN CHAFFET, RHODE ISLAND
 ARIEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 BEN NICHOLSON, COLORADO

KEN CONNOLLY, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
 DAVE CONOVER, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

April 15, 2002

The Honorable Tom Ridge, Director
 The White House
 Attention: Office of Homeland Security
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
 Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Director Ridge:

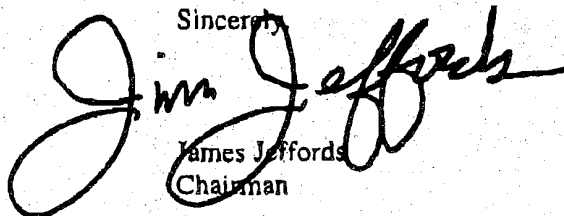
On behalf of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, we would like to invite you to testify before the full Committee on Tuesday, May 7, 2002. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Committee will conduct a legislative hearing on the proposed First Responder Initiative.

The tragic events of September 11th, and almost daily reports of the threat of domestic terrorism, have caused Americans to focus like never before on the issues of domestic terrorism preparedness and response. This Committee recognizes the importance of a well-informed, well-prepared citizenry. This Committee also recognizes that as Director of the Office of Homeland Security, you will play a vital role in charting a national policy course for preparing first responders to respond to acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. As such, I believe that the American public and its elected representatives deserve a full and open discussion of your views on these issues, your plans to spend public funds on these efforts, and your findings as to the current level of preparedness of our nation's first responders.

At a hearing on March 12, 2002, this Committee began a national dialogue with the emergency preparedness community on the proposed \$3.5 billion First Responder Initiative within the Federal Emergency Management Agency. At that hearing, FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh and state and local first responders testified on the initiative and members of this Committee engaged an important and productive discussion on a variety of issues related to terrorism preparedness and response. I intend to continue this dialogue in a public forum with all the stakeholders in this process—from first responders to legislators to members of the executive branch—in an effort to draft authorizing legislation that will effectively prepare this nation to respond to acts of terrorism. And as the President's point person on these issues, this process must involve you.

I look forward to your participation in a Committee hearing on these important issues.

Sincerely,



James M. Jeffords
 Chairman