

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2004

May 19, 2011

The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chairman
The Honorable Daniel Coats, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Landrieu and Ranking Member Coats:

As the subcommittee begins its work in assembling a funding bill for Fiscal Year 2012, I write in support of several specific activities in the President's budget proposal. I recognize the severe limitations the subcommittee faces in these challenging financial circumstances, and appreciate your willingness to consider these high priority programs for funding in FY 2012.

I support the President's budget request to increase funding for the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T). The Directorate funds the Homeland Security Centers of Excellence, which collaborate with universities to conduct research and produce innovation homeland security solutions. This program has delivered excellent results nationally. In Maryland, I want to highlight to the subcommittee the excellent work of two universities that won ongoing competitive grants from DHS S&T. The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), led by the University of Maryland, conducts cutting-edge research on how terrorist groups form and operate, and how to both disrupt terrorist attacks and increase our resilience against such attacks. The National Center for the Study of Preparedness and Catastrophic Event Response (PACER), led by Johns Hopkins University, conducts multidisciplinary research on medical and public health preparedness, response and surge capacity, and develops guidelines on how to best respond to disasters.

In addition to the S&T Directorate, I support the President's budget request for the National Cyber Security Division and the US CERT (Computer Emergency Readiness Team), which supports efforts under the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative (CNCI). The Division will help protect both government and private sector networks against cyberattacks and disruptions. The Division will work closely with key federal agencies in Maryland that play a critical role in our nation's cybersecurity efforts, such as the National Security Agency, U.S. Cyber Command, and NIST. As you are well aware, cybersecurity threats are of major concern to our national intelligence community as well as to our economy. Supporting these programs represents a smart investment in our national security and our economic well-being.

Finally, I support the President's budget request for the Port Security Grant Program, which helps prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks. The subcommittee is

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well aware of the security needs at the nation's ports. The Port of Baltimore is one of the largest US ports for foreign cargo, and is a major economic engine for Maryland and the Northeast corridor of the United States. Like other major port facilities, it relies heavily on this important grant program.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these funding requests. Please feel free to have your staff contact either Bill Van Horne (8-6168) or Jodi Schwartz (8-6231) of my staff if I can provide any additional information about this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Cardin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator