



Washington



Iowa

May 5, 2011

The Honorable Paul Stockton
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense
and Americas' Security Affairs
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20318

Dear Assistant Secretary Stockton:

Thank you for your letter to follow-up on our March 1st Council of Governors (Council) meeting. Governors are pleased with the ongoing progress of the Council and our continued partnership with the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security and the White House. Together, we have made tremendous progress and we look forward to moving ahead on implementation of the Joint Action Plan for Developing Unity of Effort, to include reaching an agreement on the draft Memorandum of (MOA) Agreement for review by each state as well as the legislative proposal regarding the use of the Reserve forces during disaster response.

As discussed during the meeting, governors remain committed to working toward consensus on both the legislative proposal regarding the use of federal Reserve forces and the standing MOA. Our staffs have already scheduled several opportunities to review the current drafts of both documents so that we can adequately address our respective concerns regarding the preservation of gubernatorial authorities while also providing more streamlined access to the resources of the Reserves. Once this is accomplished, we look forward to discussing the drafts with all governors to ensure their support for the work of the Council. With continued progress implementing the Joint Action Plan and training National Guard officers to serve as dual-status commanders, we hope to achieve consensus among our colleagues as quickly as possible.

In addition, thank you for sharing our belief that shared situational awareness remains an important component of the Joint Action Plan that should be addressed expeditiously. We look forward to learning more about the Joint Senior Advisory Board to ensure that it represents the best means to facilitate progress on this critical issue while adequately encouraging the participation of states and the Department of Homeland Security.

We look forward to our continued progress and to the next Council meeting in July.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Chris Gregoire in blue ink.

Governor Chris Gregoire
Co-Chair
Council of Governors

Handwritten signature of Terry Branstad in blue ink.

Governor Terry Branstad
Co-Chair
Council of Governors