



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2011

Office of the Governor

FEB 11 2011

The Honorable Chris Gregoire
Co-Chair, Council of Governors
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

Thank you for your letter of December 13, 2010, informing the Administration that the Council of Governors, on behalf of all governors, has approved the Joint Action Plan for Developing Unity of Effort. Your leadership and dedication ensured success. This plan marks an historic moment in the relationship between the States and the Federal Government, as well as a critical step forward in living up to our mutual obligation to protect American lives in the face of catastrophes.

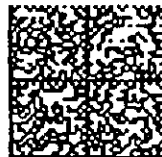
At the last meeting, the Council discussed the need to close a significant gap in the Department of Defense's ability to provide assistance to States requesting the authority to mobilize non-National Guard Reservists. You observed that a legislative proposal to close this gap would be most effective if it came from the Council of Governors. I agree and look forward to ensuring that the almost 400,000 Reservists, living in thousands of communities across our Nation, can be called upon under this new authority to serve the public more effectively during natural disasters.

As always, I appreciate your insights and the leadership you provide to the Council. I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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FEB 15 2011

MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 20310

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