



Vermont



Washington

May 5, 2010

The Honorable Paul Stockton  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense  
and Americas' Security Affairs  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Assistant Secretary Stockton:

Thank you for your assistance and support in establishing the Council of Governors (Council) and creating a foundation for a strengthened state-federal partnership on critical issues involving our National Guard and homeland defense. Pursuant to the first Council meeting and in coordination with our fellow Council members, we have established five working groups which will be co-led by the governors indicated as follows:

Unity of Effort

*Governor James Douglas and Governor Christine Gregoire*

Air National Guard and Army National Guard Recapitalization

*Governor Beverly Perdue and Governor Robert McDonnell*

End Strength, Full-Time Manning, TTHS

*Governor Jay Nixon and Governor Luis Fortuño*

CBRNE Response Forces

*Governor Jan Brewer and Governor Brad Henry*

Military Construction

*Governor Martin O'Malley and Governor Mike Rounds*

Ahead of the next Council meeting, the National Governors Association will coordinate with these working groups to identify opportunities for governors' designees to engage in detailed discussions with our federal partners. We anticipate that these working groups will hold monthly teleconferences and in-person meetings when possible. This will help ensure a robust discussion of these issues in preparation for the next full Council meeting.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and hope that Secretary Gates and Secretary Napolitano will accept our invitation to have the next Council meeting on Sunday, July 11, 2010 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Douglas".

Governor James H. Douglas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Gregoire".

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

cc: The Honorable Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense  
The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security