



NATIONAL  
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

13 January 2009

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

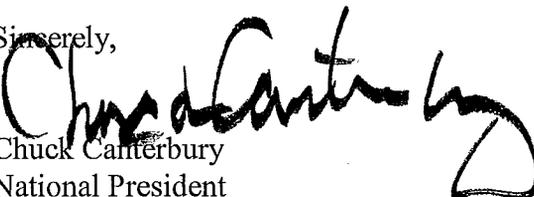
Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Collins,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong opposition to any legislation that would remove the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Since the terrorist attacks on the United States in September 2001, our nation has worked diligently to defend itself from future attacks and, in so doing, have also dedicated significant resources to respond to large scale critical incidents, both natural and man-made. While the primary mission of the Department of Homeland Security must always be the prevention of future attacks against the United States, our nation will face natural disasters which cannot be prevented, and, for these, we must be prepared to respond. Law enforcement is a critical component of this response and law enforcement at every level of government seeks to increase the speed and effectiveness of delivering emergency services to those in need. In our view, stripping FEMA out of the DHS would reduce our nation's overall level of preparedness.

I thank you both in advance for your consideration of our perspective on this matter and your continued leadership on homeland security issues. I look forward to continue working with you and the Committee in the new Congress. If I can be of any additional help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,



Chuck Canterbury  
National President