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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 11, 2017

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

I have sent the enclosed letters on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security in support of adequate funding for local homeland security, bioterrorism, and disaster preparedness efforts in the *FY 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations* bill.

In California, local governments such as the County are the first responders to terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other major emergencies. County public health, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety personnel are responsible for on-the-ground response and recovery action. In addition, counties own, operate, and secure essential aspects of the nation's infrastructure, such as airports, hospitals, transit systems, and water supplies. Elected County officials and County emergency managers proved the essential regional planning and coordination in preventing, preparing for, and managing the response to emergency events.

It is important that the Federal government contribute significant resources to local governments so that they can prevent or respond to terrorist attacks and other major emergencies. As your colleagues on the Subcommittee draft the FY 2018 Department of Homeland Security spending measure, please urge them to fund the State and Local Homeland Security Grant program at the highest level possible. It is equally important that local governments are prepared for natural disasters, and that adequate funding is provided for the comprehensive emergency management under the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. Finally, the County strongly supports continued funding for assistance to local fire departments under the Firefighter Assistance Grants program.

I thank you for your consideration

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg