

THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,  
Washington, DC, February 4, 2015.

Hon. THAD COCHRAN, Chairman,  
Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI, Ranking Member,  
*Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JOHN HOEVEN, Chairman,  
Hon. JEANNE SHAHEEN, Ranking Member,  
*Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Committee*  
*on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Wash-*  
*ington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS COCHRAN, MIKULSKI, HOEVEN, AND SHAHEEN: I write on behalf of the nation's mayors to urge you to expeditiously report out a "clean" bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of the current fiscal year. A fully functioning Department of Homeland Security is critical to the security of our nation, our cities, and our citizens. A Department operating on a short-term continuing resolution, despite its best efforts, faces uncertainty and delays and simply cannot be fully functioning.

Under its current short-term continuing resolution, DHS cannot undertake any new spending initiatives to respond to national needs, including those along the border, or release any grant funding for non-disaster programs. Among the non-disaster programs it funds are the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative, which provide vital resources to our cities to help them prevent and prepare for the threat of a terrorist attack. The Urban Search and Rescue System is a national resource that provides lifesaving aid to disaster-stricken communities both at home and abroad. The Assistance to Firefighter Grant programs help local fire departments meet their baseline readiness needs. Emergency Management Performance Grants help to fund the emergency managers so critical to our preparedness to prevent and respond to disasters when events—man-made and natural—occur.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson recently listed just a few of the activities vital to public safety and security that the Department has funded, including new communications equipment for over 80 Los Angeles area public safety agencies, surveillance cameras and environmental sensors used by NYPD to detect in real time potential terrorist activity, upgraded oxygen masks and tanks for over 30 Denver area; and 150 firefighter jobs in Detroit.

The current threat environment is serious, given the terrorist attacks in Paris, Ottawa and Sydney and public calls by terrorist organizations for further attacks on the Western targets. It's vital that Congress provide stable funding for the remainder of the year to the agency charged with keeping all of us safe and secure, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

TOM COCHRAN,  
*CEO and Executive Director.*

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I will also point out a letter we received, which again, was addressed to Senator COCHRAN and Senator MIKULSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. This is from emergency managers, and it says:

The nation's local emergency managers urge you to include full-year funding for pro-

grams at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that support state and local emergency management programs. These programs are critical to preparing our nation for all hazards including terrorist attacks.

Again, they go on at length, and I ask unanimous consent to have this letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGERS,  
*Falls Church, VA, February 4, 2015.*

Hon. THAD COCHRAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S.*  
*Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI,  
*Vice Chairwoman, Committee on Appropria-*  
*tions, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN COCHRAN AND VICE CHAIRWOMAN MIKULSKI: The International Association of Emergency Managers—US Council appreciates the work of your committee as you consider the FY 2015 budget for the Department of Homeland Security. The nation's local emergency managers urge you to include full-year funding for programs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that support state and local emergency management programs. These programs are critical to preparing our nation for all hazards including terrorist attacks.

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), called "the backbone of the nation's emergency management system" in an Appropriations Conference Report, constitutes the only source of direct federal funding for state and local governments to provide basic emergency coordination and planning capabilities including those related to homeland security. The grant is 50-50 cost shared and supports state and local government initiatives for planning, training, exercises, public education, as well as response and recovery coordination during actual events. When a coordinated response is required, it is always a complex undertaking. Local emergency management is core to the coordination and collaboration of multiple agencies, jurisdictions, and sectors.

A recent example of the importance of EMPG is provided by Dr. Russell Decker, Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for Allen County Ohio.

In the case of our January 10 refinery explosion and fire, EMPG funds made a successful response possible with trained emergency managers and our public safety partners implementing response plans developed and trained through EMPG funding, hazard materials response and air monitoring equipment funded through State Homeland Security Grant Program funds ensured the safety of responders and nearby residents. I'd hate to think what could have been the outcome if that planning, training, and exercising had not occurred. Since many locals rely on EMPG, extended delays can mean staff layoffs or delays in filling vacancies, postponed training exercises, delays in plan revisions and also delays in acquisition of needed equipment for EOCs which could mean increased costs when funds do become available.

The delay in receiving this annual EMPG funding causes uncertainty for local governments. Some preparedness activities must be put on hold until the reimbursement is assured.

Also important are grant programs such as the State Homeland Security Grant Program

and the Urban Areas Security Initiative which help support local government preparations for the continued threat of terrorism. Funding is needed to sustain currently established and critical programs.

We respectfully urge that full year funding be provided for FY 2015 to end the uncertainty.

Sincerely,

JOHN "RUSTY" RUSSELL,  
*President, Inter-*  
*national Association*  
*of Emergency Man-*  
*agers, U.S. Council.*

Mrs. SHAHEEN. There are any number of reasons why we need to pass a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. We should be working to do that now. We should stop the ideological debate and focus on the risk to this country if we fail to act, the potential risk we would face by passing a continuing resolution, and the risk to this country if we shut down the Department of Homeland Security. None of those options are acceptable.

We need to work together and get this done. I urge my colleagues to do that.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### NET NEUTRALITY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the importance of the issue of Net neutrality and the importance of it to our innovation economy.

The Internet is a \$638 billion economic force, and according to the McKinsey Global Institute, it supports millions of jobs across our Nation. Setting the right policy for the Internet is critical for the continuation of American job creation in an innovation economy.

Over the next 24 hours, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler is expected to announce strong Net neutrality standards to support the growth of this innovation economy.

According to news reports, the FCC will establish clear rules of the road to ensure that no content is blocked and that the Internet cannot be divided into fast and slow lanes. This announcement would set a clear framework for the innovation economy and the millions of jobs that depend on it across our Nation. It would make a game-changing milestone for American innovators and consumers because a comprehensive plan would protect consumers while still allowing for flexibility of business growth and investment and making sure that American consumers and innovators are protected.

The Commission is expected to vote on this rule later this month, and I hope that all of our colleagues will be paying attention to this decision because this decision is not just whether I can download or use Netflix, it is really about equal access to the marketplace. It is about how the future

success of these innovators are determined.

Over the last few years, we have been debating the future of the Web, and that is because broadband companies have tried to leverage what is to be established as a two-tier Internet—those with fast lanes because of their ability to pay more and slow lanes for those who can't pay more.

I believe the President did the right thing. He called on the FCC to make the right decision when it comes to the Internet and protecting it from cable companies who want to overcharge or slow down connections. The FCC seems to be willing to make the right call, by protecting consumers and the Internet, under a new order which, just like a utility, would give consumers the ability to be protected from bad service or exorbitant fees. At this point in time, that is what we need to do to protect consumers.

According to the news reports, Chairman Wheeler will announce a plan to use the FCC authority in the most comprehensive way to protect Net neutrality, prohibit pay-to-play fast lanes, prohibit blocking and throttling, require greater transparency for consumers, and apply the rules to wireless broadbands so that smart phones are treated just like the browser on your desk.

This plan would cover what is known as the middle mile or Internet traffic or the companies that content providers, such as Netflix, pay to bring traffic to cable companies, such as Comcast, to connect to you, the end user. These important policies will provide certainty to a startup in business, and they will make sure that those products get equal access.

Last month I had a roundtable in Seattle with several startups and experts on Net neutrality, and many of those companies relied on the Internet to transform their ideas into successful businesses. They explained how the debate affects more than just tech companies. They said software is revolutionizing every industry, from retail to health care, everything from the way you pay for your coffee at Starbucks to how you access your own personal health information.

If we allowed a two-tier system to develop, the big guys would have the ability to pay more while the smaller customers would have disruptions. What we have done, hopefully with an announcement today, is to make sure we are putting a stake in the ground to protect consumers.

The CEO of the Washington Technology Industry Association put it best when he said:

We have a multi-trillion dollar evidence base study that says the current rules of the game—which mean open, neutral access to the Internet—work.

I couldn't agree more.

Our innovation economy depends on equal access for all ideas. The proof is in the numbers. Over 6 million U.S. jobs are tied to the Internet. That adds

up to a payroll of \$558 billion. In the Seattle metropolitan area alone, from 2009 to 2014, there were 433 different venture capital deals related to Internet companies, totaling nearly \$2.6 billion.

All of this growth in the Internet economy relies on an open Internet. That means no blocking, no throttling of these priorities. That is why I support strong net neutrality rules. They need to be responsible and efficient.

I thank Chairman Wheeler for his leadership in setting up strong rules. I hope this information on the Web continues to be one of our great economic engines and continues job development here in the United States.

A strong net neutrality rule is the best tool in the toolbox for preserving the openness of the Internet today. It will go a long way to help us continue our economic prosperity.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from Georgia.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I find it tragically ironic that on the same day the Islamic State tragically took the life and murdered a Jordanian pilot that the U.S. Senate failed to get a 60-vote majority to move to a motion to proceed to debate the most important issue facing the United States of America. I agree with my colleagues who have talked about the dangers of Islamic terrorism, the dangers of porous borders, and all the other dangers we have spoken about, but we can't solve those problems unless we get the bill to the floor and debate it.

I was elected in 2004. The No. 1 issue in my campaign and in the general election was immigration policy in the United States of America. Eleven years later, it is still the biggest domestic issue in the State of Georgia. We still have a porous border and we know how vulnerable we are. It is time we move this bill to the floor and fully debate it.

I know there are differences of opinion. I know each one of us would do it differently. But we are part of a constitutional government to make decisions for our people. We don't need Executive orders dictating what we should do. We need a House and a Senate to come to common ground, we need a President who will sign a bill, and we need a bill to be upheld. We are not going to get there until we have debate on the floor and move forward on a motion to proceed to debate funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

I just left a Committee on Foreign Relations hearing on human trafficking. We talked about the terrors of what is happening in terms of sexual abuse, sexual trafficking, child labor, minority labor—all of those horrors that are taking place. Do my colleagues know where they are taking

place in our country? They are taking place on the border of the Southwest, in the Presiding Officer's home State of Arizona, where our border is porous. And because of that, drugs and human beings are trafficked every single day. That should stop.

The No. 1 issue when we debated the Department of Homeland Security bill in 2005 was to put in a trigger to ensure that no changes in immigration law took place until we first secured the border.

The border is still not secure. We are trying. I commend our brave soldiers and the State of Arizona, as well as Fort Huachuca, one of the beacons of the drones that are flying on the border with Mexico to try to identify people coming in, but we haven't done enough.

We should bring the Department of Homeland Security bill to the floor. We should make sure the funding for the Department of Homeland Security is sufficient to secure our border. We will find our differences and we will debate our differences and we will come to common ground. But we can't come to common ground—we can't resolve our Nation's No. 1 domestic problem—unless we agree to bring to the floor the motion to proceed and bring a robust debate to the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I, as one Member of the Senate, ran for this job to be a part of the solution, not someone who would throw up my arms and say we can't solve the problems so I am going to sit on the sidelines. Let's get off of the sidelines. Let's come to the floor of the Senate. Let's vote on the motion to proceed. Let's fully amend and debate the bill. Let's send the President a bill from a unified Congress that says we want a secure border, we want an immigration policy that works, and we want to once again be a government of checks and balances, not a government of Executive orders.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to please notify me at 9 minutes into a 10-minute speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will be so notified.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we are in the odd situation by which our Democratic colleagues are complaining that we are blocking funding for the Department of Homeland Security when the House has passed a bill that fully funds the Department of Homeland Security. It is sitting at the desk today. The majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has moved to proceed to that bill, and they are blocking it. Senator MCCONNELL moved to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed—to just