

Matsui Urges Secretary Chertoff on Upcoming Visit to Consider Sacramento's Infrastructure in Relation to Homeland Security Needs

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March 2, 2006

Thursday, March 2, 2006

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Washington, DC - Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) in advance of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff's visit to Sacramento sent him a letter urging him to consider the importance and significance of Sacramento's critical infrastructure in connection to our homeland security and emergency preparedness needs. This information could provide the Secretary with a better understanding of Sacramento's security needs as the Congresswoman works to ensure Sacramento remains eligible for funds through the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program.

In January 2006, DHS released a list of 35 urban areas considered eligible to apply for funding through the FY 2006 UASI program. Eleven additional areas, including Sacramento were notified that their UASI funding may be terminated in future years if the Sacramento Urban Area does not meet the new risk assessment standards.

Following is the text of the letter.

March 2, 2006 The Honorable Michael Chertoff Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security Washington, DC 20528 Dear Secretary Chertoff, I understand that you have agreed to visit Sacramento in the coming weeks. While in Sacramento you will have an opportunity to view many critical infrastructure, including our levees. I hope that you will take advantage of this visit to consider the importance and significance of the critical infrastructure that you will see in relation to our homeland security and emergency preparedness needs. As you know, my community has greatly benefited from Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding. Just as with natural disaster preparedness and mitigation, I am a firm believer that a proactive investment in homeland security needs can ultimately save lives and protect property. Your visit is an opportunity to show how well Sacramento has used UASI funding to ensure the safety of our community. I strongly believe that Sacramento should continue to receive this funding and would be happy to assist you in arranging meetings with our local law enforcement to hear the concerns that they have expressed to me and other elected officials. Sacramento's security funding is of the utmost importance to me and I appreciate your taking the time to visit Sacramento. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you to make sure that your visit is as valuable as possible. I look forward to further discussions on Sacramento's security needs. Sincerely, DORIS O. MATSUI Member of Congress

cc: Pamela Turner, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Dept. of Homeland Security; Chief Albert Najera, Sacramento Police Department; Ray Kerridge, Interim City Manager, City of Sacramento; The Honorable Heather Fargo,

Mayor of Sacramento; Terry Schutten, County Executive, Sacramento County

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