

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 2009

**Support Our Nation's Emergency Responders:
Adequately Fund Emergency Management Performance Grants**

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to invite you to co-sign the attached letter to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, which requests adequate funding in the FY 2011 budget for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

EMPG is an all-hazard focused emergency management program. It was created to develop effective and coordinated all-hazard emergency response systems at the state and local government level. The program provides the only source of federal assistance to state and local managers to address emergency management capabilities and has been referred to as "the backbone of the nation's emergency management system."

The EMPG program historically has been underfunded. Last year, Congress appropriated \$340 million in funding for the EMPG. According to the National Emergency Management Association 2010 Biennial Survey, the total need for EMPG next year is \$530 million. The difference represents the shortfall needed to adequately fund existing jurisdictions and to establish emergency management programs in jurisdictions not currently able to be included. Because of the urgent need for emergency management funding for state and local governments, we support funding the program at \$530 million in FY 2011. This amount falls well under the \$815 million authorized for FY 2011 through the *Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007* (P.L. 110-53).

We urge you to join us in supporting this important request. If you would like to sign the EMPG letter, please contact Theda Owens in Senator Roberts' office at 224-4774 or Jessica Nagasako with Senator Akaka at 224-6684 by March 24, 2010.

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Daniel K. Akaka
United States Senator