

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2008

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program has helped law enforcement agencies across our nation fight crime and terrorism for almost 30 years. The President's FY09 Budget reduces funding for RISS to \$34.2 million. We respectfully ask that funding for RISS be increased to \$52.7 million in the FY09 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill.

RISS serves as the premier information sharing program, offering secure communications, access to intelligence databases, and investigative resources and services—such as analytical support, equipment loans, confidential funds, field staff support, technical support, training, research, publications, and officer safety. In many cases, these are services that law enforcement agencies would not have access to without adequate support.

Through its six intelligence centers, RISS acts as a one-stop shop for law enforcement and public/private sector entities. It supports over 8,000 local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement member agencies and over 81,000 access officers. These officers represent hundreds of thousands of officers from around the globe. RISS supports agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Australia, Canada, and England. Each year, the number of RISS member agencies increases, creating a greater demand for RISS services.

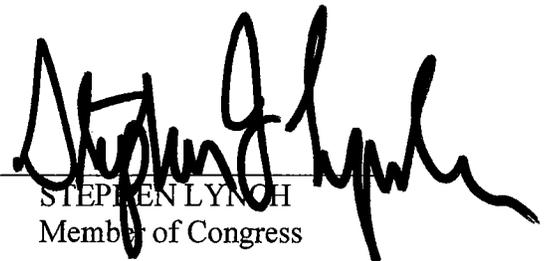
In order to combat terrorism, RISS developed RISSNET which allows criminal justice agencies to share and exchange intelligence information with the ability to quickly query, analyze, and research data. Today, RISSNET is used as the system of choice for numerous law enforcement entities and acts as the primary communications backbone for other systems and databases - linking thousands of criminal justice agencies and using state-of-the-art technology. After 9/11, RISS created the Automated Trusted Information Exchange (ATIX) to meet the demand of public safety and private sector entities. RISS is also used to combat gangs with the RISSGang Program, and it is currently developing RISSafe, an officer safety event deconfliction system.

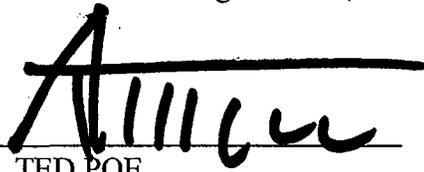
RISS's services have been integrated throughout the law enforcement and public safety communities at all levels in every jurisdiction across the country. Without continued support for RISS, these agencies, who investigate crimes in our small towns and big cities, will suffer. The law enforcement community needs RISS's support to aid their efforts and thwart criminal and terrorist activities.

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, request that you take action to provide RISS with an adequate funding level of \$52.7 million, so that it will continue to serve our law enforcement agencies as an effective tool in combating terrorism and crime. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress


STEPHEN LYNCH
Member of Congress


TED POE
Member of Congress


JAMES LANGEVIN
Member of Congress

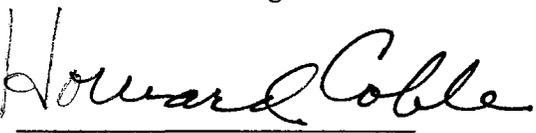

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress

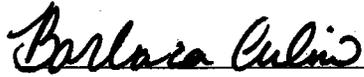

TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress


TIMOTHY W. BISHOP
Member of Congress

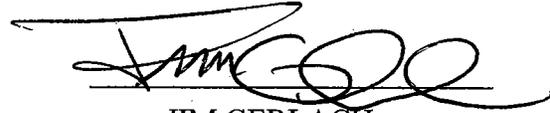

JOHN BOOZMAN
Member of Congress


BRUCE L. BRALEY
Member of Congress


HOWARD COBLE
Member of Congress



BARBARA CUBIN
Member of Congress



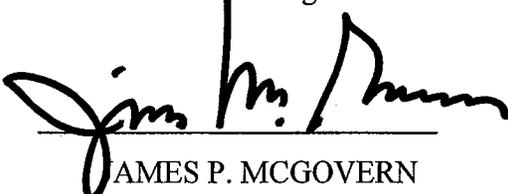
JIM GERLACH
Member of Congress



BOB GOODLATTE
Member of Congress



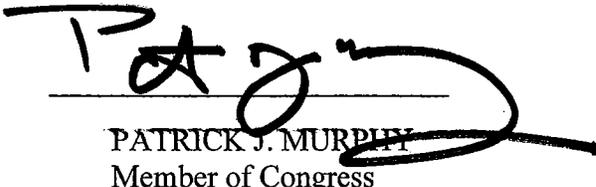
TIM HOLDEN
Member of Congress



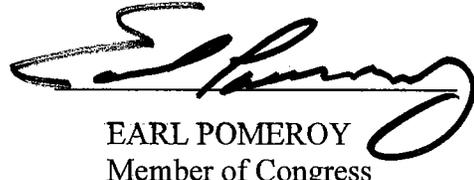
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress



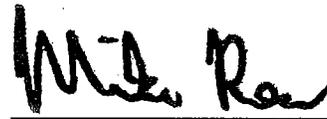
PATRICK J. MURPHY
Member of Congress



EARL POMEROY
Member of Congress



NICK J. RAHALL
Member of Congress



MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



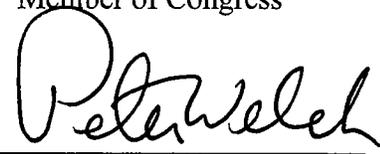
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



VIC SNYDER
Member of Congress



BART STUPAK
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress