



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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February 21, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Naval Security Station
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable John Snow
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Chertoff and Secretary Snow:

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, I am writing regarding the recent revelation that the Administration has approved a business transaction to allow Dubai Ports World, headquartered in the United Arab Emirates, to run significant operations at ports in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Orleans and Miami.

We have heard serious security concerns regarding this transaction from several of our mayoral members, and we urge that the Administration suspend the transaction until the security of America's cities can be guaranteed.

Since September 11, 2001, our organization has focused tremendous effort on the issue of port security. As the home to one of the world's largest ports, I am deeply aware of the importance of securing port cargo and operations. Our organization has been calling for important measures to strengthen port security, and we cannot understand how it is appropriate take such a drastic risk at this time.

Thank you for your continued attention to the needs of America's mayors, our cities, and the security of the nation. If you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director Tom Cochran or Assistant Executive Director Ron Thaniel at (202) 293-7330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beverly O'Neill".

Beverly O'Neill
Mayor of Long Beach
President

Cc: Ruben Barrales
Toby Burke