February 24, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House

Dear President Bush:

On behalf of leaders of The United States Conference of Mayors, gathered during our 2006 Winter Leadership Meeting, we urge you to suspend the proposed 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 ask that you then require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to commence an immediate 45-day investigation on the takeover’s effects on national security.

By taking these actions, the Administration will have greater opportunity to inform mayors, Congress, and the American public regarding the many complicated issues surrounding this matter.

Since September 11, 2001, our organization has focused tremendous effort on the issue of port security. During our leadership meeting, we heard from several Administration officials regarding steps that have been taken to improve port security. But we continue to hear serious security concerns regarding this transaction and on port security in general from our mayoral members, and we urge that the Administration suspend the transaction until the security of America’s ports can be assured.

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,

[Signatures]

Mayor of Long Beach  
President

Mayor of Trenton  
Advisory Board Chair

Mayor of Baltimore  
Co-Chair, Homeland Security Task Force

Mayor of Sugar Land  
Co-Chair, Homeland Security Task Force
Mayero T. Obettrudty
Mayor of Virginia Beach, VA

Manuel Diaz
Mayor of Miami, FL

Jim Giffen
Mayor of Anchorage

C Horny
Mayor of Barstow, CA

James W. Holley
Mayor of Portsmouth, VA

Bill Oden
Mayor of Nashville

M. Bello
Mayor of Columbus

Mike Annex
Mayor of Oklahoma City, OK

G. E. Bell
Mayor of North Little Rock, AR

Dr. Mayeux
Mayor of New Orleans, LA

Rebecca Stone
Mayor of Staunton, VA

Ricky Riley
Mayor of Chicago, IL

John Bollman
Mayor of Elizabeth, NJ