



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
URL: www.usmayors.org

February 21, 2006

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Chair
Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs Committee
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Ranking Member
Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs Committee
United States Senate
604 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Lieberman:

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 you to stop the Administration from allowing the transaction to proceed. This will allow more time for investigation and review to ensure that no action is taken until and unless 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.

We urge your action to suspend approval of this transaction and ensure a complete review of the security impacts.

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: Members of the United States Senate