



April 7, 2003

Dear Mayors:

Thank you for your help with our recent efforts to get immediate, direct funding and to increase the amount of money that cities receive for first responders from the supplemental appropriation to support the war. The Senate modified President Bush's wartime supplemental and included a total \$2.2 billion for first responders, \$200 million more than proposed by the Administration.

The work done by Senators Mikulski, Clinton and Schumer will not be forgotten by the mayors from their states and from every state that wanted direct, adequate funding for first responders delivered in a timely and practical way.

While the amendment that would have helped cities most didn't succeed in getting enough support from the Senate late last week; we have managed to get our message across and we have gotten some more money. The calling and letter writing campaign that many mayors participated in was a great success and was acknowledged by the Senators on the floor of the Senate.

We received tremendous support from the firefighters and police officers organizations – and the combined pressure is a powerful tool. Their support is crucial in affirming with the public that our requests are for the frontline troops in this new war.

The supplemental now goes to conference committee and we will redouble our efforts in the next few days to push for the best deal for our cities.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Martin O'Malley
Mayor of Baltimore
Chair, Homeland Security Task Force