

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 26, 2004

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301,

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are writing to express our continued support for the creation of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) within the Maryland National Guard.

As you know, the Fiscal 2004 Department of Defense Appropriations bill, as enacted, includes funding to add 12 additional National Guard WMD-CST. In their accompanying report, the Conferees direct that priority should be given to states facing significant port security and other coastal security challenges. Given these criteria, the State of Maryland, which is home to the Port of Baltimore and 4,360 miles of coastline, should receive priority consideration when the funding for these 12 new teams is allocated.

The Port of Baltimore comprises approximately 45 miles of waterfront area encompassing nearly 1,600 acres of sheltered waters. Each year the Port handles more than 30 million tons of cargo – making it one of the Nation's top container terminals. Furthermore, the Port of Baltimore is the closest major seaport to the Nation's capital, a leader in the import of commodities that are essential to national security, and home to many Ready Reserve ships, Military Sealift Command ships, and the hospital ship COMFORT.

In addition to the challenges posed by port and coastal security, Maryland is home to many key Federal agencies and installations, including the U.S. Naval Academy, the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the National Institutes of Health, Camp David, Goddard Space Center, and Andrews Air Force Base. Maryland has significant transportation infrastructure, comprised of an international airport, a state-owned general aviation facility, extensive public transportation, four major and over 2000 minor bridges, several interstates connecting the length of the East Coast with the rest of the United States, and other structures including the world's only eight-lane underwater tunnel for vehicular traffic.

While both Virginia and Pennsylvania have WMD-CST, Maryland should not have to rely on a WMD-CST from a neighboring state. These teams are located more than three hours away under ideal conditions and would likely find the primary access into our State closed or impassable during a disabling incident. Additionally, these teams report directly to the Governors of Virginia and Pennsylvania. It cannot be assumed that they will be available to

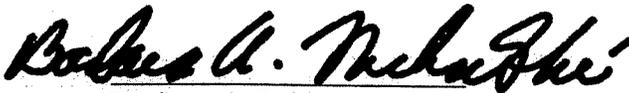
assist Maryland during a WMD event and they will not routinely train with State and local first responder communities.

It has also been suggested that Federal response assets are poised to provide direct support to consequence management operations following a WMD incident in Maryland. We disagree with this assessment. None of these Federal assets have a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Maryland. As we witnessed on September 11, 2001 and in attacks on American embassies around the world, terrorists often coordinate simultaneous attacks at different locations. In such a scenario, it is important that Maryland have a National Guard team that reports directly to the Adjutant General and the Governor of Maryland.

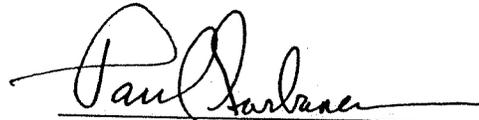
The Maryland Congressional Delegation, therefore, requests that the Department of Defense assist Maryland in preparing for the terrorism threats of the 21st Century by placing a Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team in the Maryland National Guard.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you.

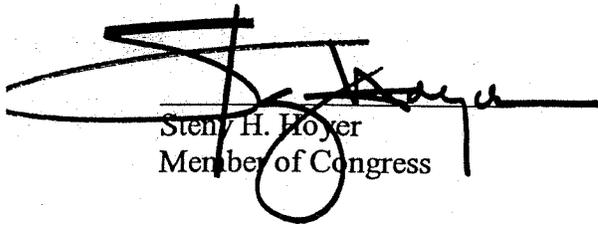
Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



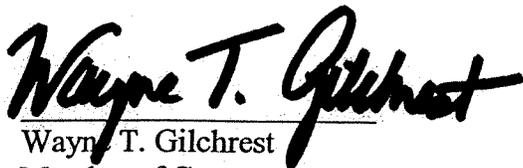
Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator



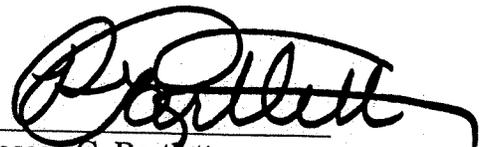
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



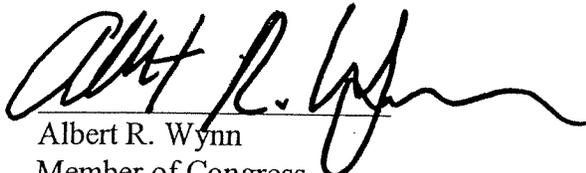
Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



Wayne T. Gilchrest
Member of Congress

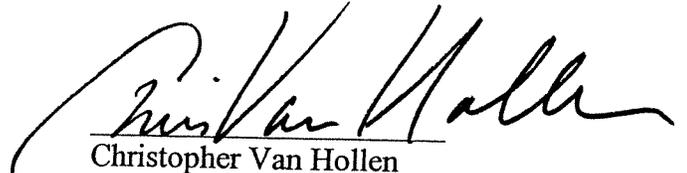


Roscoe G. Bartlett
Member of Congress


Albert R. Wynn
Member of Congress


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress


Christopher Van Hollen
Member of Congress

cc: Acting Secretary of the Army R.L. Brownlee