



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

Vice President:
KONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC
Mayor of Akron

Vice President:
SEVERLY O'NEILL
Mayor of Long Beach

Vice Presidents:
ERRY ABRAMSON
Mayor of Louisville Metro
ICHARD M. DALEY
Mayor of Chicago
AMES A. GARNER
Mayor of Hempstead
THOMAS M. MENINO
Mayor of Boston
KEPH P. RILEY, JR.
Mayor of Charleston, SC

Vice Presidents:
ANUEL A. DIAZ
Mayor of Miami
LIZABETH G. FLORES
Mayor of Laredo
ATRICK HENRY HAYS
Mayor of North Little Rock
HARPE JAMES
Mayor of Newark, NJ

WILLIAM A. JOHNSON, JR.
Mayor of Rochester, NY

COTT L. KING
Mayor of Gary
ANNEL P. MALLOY
Mayor of Stamford

RENE J. MULDER
Mayor of Arlington Heights
ITA L. MULLINS
Mayor of Palatine

MEYERA E. OBERNDORF
Mayor of Virginia Beach
DOUGLAS H. PALMER
Mayor of Trenton

ILL PURCELL
Mayor of Nashville
DAVID W. SMITH
Mayor of Newark, CA

REG SPARROW
Mayor of DeKalb

Honorary Board:
MICHAEL A. GUIDO, Chair
Mayor of Dearborn

MA L. ANDERSON
Mayor of Richmond, CA

JAN AUTRY
Mayor of Fresno

AY BARNES
Mayor of Kansas City, MO

CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE
Mayor of Elizabeth

AMES BRAINARD
Mayor of Carmel, IN

ONE CAMPBELL
Mayor of Cleveland

MARTIN J. CHAVEZ
Mayor of Albuquerque

AVID N. CICILLINE
Mayor of Providence

ER A. CLAVELLE
Mayor of Burlington

IRIEY FRANKLIN
Mayor of Atlanta

SCAR B. GOODMAN
Mayor of Las Vegas

ARVEY JOHNSON
Mayor of Jackson, MS

LIZABETH B. KAUTZ
Mayor of Burnsville

WAME M. KILPATRICK
Mayor of Detroit

ELYN LORO
Mayor of Beaumont

AY MARTINEZ
Mayor of Fort Collins

VERICK MCCORMY
Mayor of Charlotte

URA MILLER
Mayor of Dallas

AGG NICKLES
Mayor of Seattle

ARVIN O'MALLEY
Mayor of Baltimore

ART PETERSON
Mayor of Indianapolis

REX A. SANFORD
Mayor of San Juan

UGLANSF SCOTT
Mayor of Rockford

ONE VERHEL
Mayor of Philadelphia

HARLEN F. JOOLEY
Mayor of Billings

DITH VATTIN
Mayor of San Bernardino

WIDG. WALLACE
Mayor of Sugar Land

OR YOUNG
Mayor of Augusta, GA

ETHA YOUNG
Mayor of San Francisco

Executive Director:
MICHAEL HAN

January 18, 2005

The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Ridge:

As the nation's mayors convene in Washington, DC for our 73rd Winter Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, we write to urgently request that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Transportation conduct an immediate assessment of freight railroad notification procedures for the transport of hazardous materials through local jurisdictions.

The United States Conference of Mayors has repeatedly called for advanced notification of these rail shipments, so city officials are aware of what is going through their neighborhoods and business districts. The chemical train wreck in Graniteville, SC, two weeks ago had the effect of the detonation of a weapon of mass destruction. More than 90,000 shipments of Chlorine alone are transported across the country every year. These types of trains run on tracks through the hearts of our cities. Our citizens should have a reasonable expectation that hazardous materials are being shipped in the safest manner possible and that local first responders are aware of such shipments in advance.

One month after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the nation, The United States Conference of Mayors brought together more than 200 mayors, police and fire chiefs, and emergency managers to Washington to examine the new and challenging security issues confronting the vast majority of Americans who live in cities. One of the major issues areas identified in our "National Action Plan for Safety and Security in America's Cities" was "Freight Rail Security."


Within this section, the first recommendation was, "Freight railroads should be required to develop new notification procedures and to provide better information to the local jurisdictions through which they will be transporting chemicals and other hazardous materials." The second recommendation was, "Improved notification and information should extend to the storage of freight on sidings and to other practices that could pose risks to immediate neighborhoods and major local assets and venues." These issues have been raised by mayors in many of our

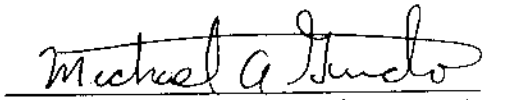
subsequent meetings due to the continued lack of notification by the freight railroads.


Therefore, we request that you to take immediate action with the freight railroads to improve notification of the transport of hazardous materials through our cities.

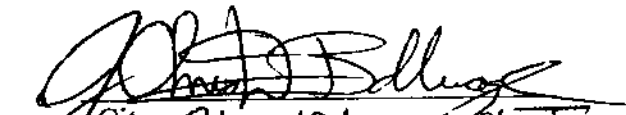
Thank you for your continued attention to our homeland security concerns and related transportation priorities. Please contact our Chief of Staff Ed Somers at (202) 861-6706 if you have any questions.


Sincerely,

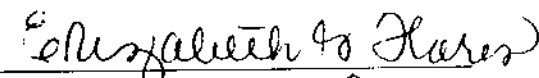

City: AKRON, Ohio

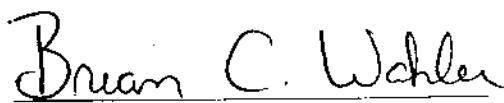

City: Dearborn, Michigan



City: AUSTIN, TEXAS

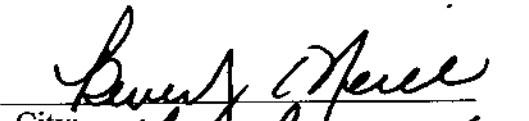

City: Elizabeth, N.J.

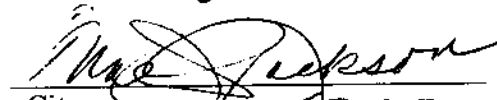

City: Baltimore, MD



City: Laredo, Texas

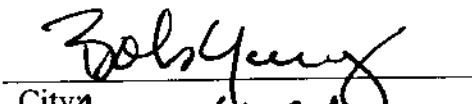

City: Piscataway, N.J.



OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

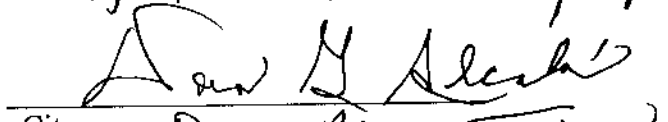

City: Long Beach, Ca



City: WACO, TEXAS


City: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA


City: Augusta, GA


City: North Little Rock, Ark


City: Del Rio, Texas


City: SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Bob Coble

City:

Columbia, S.C.

Tony Mest

City:

WILMINGTON, IL.

Jay Paul

City:

ANDER PK 21.

Alan City

City:

FRESNO, CA.

Dennis M. Clough

City:

WESTAKE

Burl Goble

City:

CARBONDALE, IL

Wayne Smith

City:

Irvington, N.J.

Bob Neal

ROSS C. ANDERSON

City:

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Anna Brummett

City:

LARME L, INDIANA

Jim Deemer

City:

MODESTO, CA

Harri C. Mowley

City:

MIRAMAR, FL

John

City:

TALLAHASSEE, FL

Jim Hyatt

City:

FT MYERS FL

Michael C. Brink

City:

Piedmont CA.

Robert W. Snow

City:

East Orange, N.J.

Steven M. Mullett

City:

Tukwila WA.

Shelia Gung

City:

SAN LEANDRO CA

Alan Walker

City:

AN WALKER

TORANCE CA.

Lizabeth Davis
City: BURLINGTON, VT

Douglas Platt
City: Rockford, IL

Frank Kren
City: Port, FL

Anthony
City: COROZAL, P.R.

Robert A. Minsky
City: PORT ST LUCIE, FL.

James Weekley
City: Richmond, Calif

Anna L. Anderson
City: Richmond, Calif

M. V. Cohn
City: Providence, RI

Paul A. Healy
City: Chicago, ILL

Aug Sparrow DeLoe, Jr
City: Southfield, MI

David Palmer
City: Southfield, MI

Marty Blum
City: Santa Barbara, CA

Manuel Quigley
City: Miami, FL.

Arlene Mulder
City: Arlington Heights, IL.

Key West, FL
City: Key West, FL

James A. McClinton
City: Joplin, KS

Cammy Charlotte
City: Sunnyvale, CA

Ann Ch
City: Sunnyvale, CA