

**Statement of Jerry L. Demings
Sheriff of Orange County, Florida
Orange County Sheriff's Office**

Before the

**U.S. House of Representatives
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**

Concerning

“Oversight of the Urban Area Security Initiative”

**Friday, July 15, 2016
2154 Rayburn House Office Building**

JERRY L. DEMINGS

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Sheriff Jerry L. Demings is a native of Orlando and was born to Freddie and Josephine Demings. He is the youngest of five children and has a twin brother. He attended Orange County, Florida public schools and is a graduate of Jones High School, where he graduated with honors in 1977. He later received his Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Florida State University in 1980 and his Master of Business Administration degree in 1989 from Orlando College, which is now Everest University. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and is listed in Who's Who Among College Students. He is also a 1998 graduate of the 194th session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy and 2000 graduate of the 23rd session of the FBI's National Executive Institute. He was awarded a certificate of completion for the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program, July 2013, by the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. Jerry was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from City College in 2001, a second honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Everest University in 2002 and an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Florida Technical College in 2013.

Jerry is married to former Orlando Police Chief Valdez B. Demings who was appointed by Mayor Buddy Dyer in December 2007 as the first female Police Chief in the history of Orlando. She retired from the agency in June 2011 after nearly 28 years. Sheriff Demings was also appointed as Orlando's first black police chief in 1998, which makes him and his wife national history makers. They have three sons, two of whom are also twins. Their sons are graduates of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida.

On November 4, 2008, Jerry was elected the first African-American Sheriff and Constitutional Officer in the history of Orange County, Florida and was sworn in on January 6, 2009. He is the chief law enforcement executive in the county and manages a \$200 million dollar budget and approximately 2,500 employees. Jerry serves our nation as a member of the FEMA National Advisory Council and was appointed by the Chief Justice of Florida's Supreme Court to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force through 2016. He became the first African American President of the Florida Sheriffs Association in July 2016 and is the President of the Major County Sheriffs Foundation.

During his tenure as Sheriff, crime has been reduced in Orange County and the agency has operated under budget each year. Through his leadership, the Orange County Sheriff's Office has been recredited by state and national accrediting organizations and the agency was honored with receiving Florida's very first "Excelsior Agency" certificate and one of the nation's first "Flagship" agency awards. In December 2010, the Sheriff's Office dedicated a new substation in east Orange County, opened a new aviation hanger in October 2010 and reopened a renovated substation in the Apopka area of northwest

Orange County in June 2010. In 2011 a new substation was also opened in the International Drive tourist corridor and the West Orange substation was renovated. In April 2016 a new substation was opened in Lake Buena Vista.

Prior to being sheriff, Chairman Richard Crotty appointed Jerry as the Director of Public Safety for Orange County in October 2002 and he served in that capacity until he resigned to run full-time for Sheriff in January 2008. He oversaw the Orange County Corrections Department, Orange County Fire Rescue Department, Public Safety Communications Division, Drug Free Community Office, Office of Criminal Justice Coordination and the Consumer Fraud Unit. He had combined budgetary oversight of over \$320 million and nearly 3200 employees. He was the first African-American to serve in that capacity.

Mayor Glenda Hood appointed him as Orlando Police Chief on December 30, 1998. He retired from the agency in November of 2002 after 21 years of service. He was credited with reducing crime four consecutive years, decentralizing patrol operations by opening two substations, instituting a take-home vehicle plan, placing computers in police cars, implementing problem oriented policing, reorganizing the agency into three operational bureaus with an emphasis on service and getting the agency reaccredited by the Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation.

Sheriff Demings is involved in numerous community service activities including the following: Saint Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church Steward; Member and former Basileus Chi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Life Member Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity, member Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He serves on the Board of Directors for Central Florida Crimeline, Inc., Central Florida Boy Scouts of America, Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida, Children's Safety Village and the West Orange Committee of 101. Jerry is known for his leadership in fundraising efforts for numerous programs that benefit children. He has helped raise millions of dollars for local non-profit organizations. He has been recognized by Orlando Magazine as one of the 50 most influential Central Floridians each year since 2009 and has been recognized by the Orlando Sentinel many years as one of the 25 most influential persons in the area. His leadership has been evident during crises such as the events of 9/11, the Florida hurricanes of 2004, the Casey Anthony trial of 2009/10 and the June 12, 2016 Orlando massacres.

He is also a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs Association, Major County Sheriffs Association, Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida Police Chiefs Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, FBI National Academy Associates and various other professional affiliations.

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Sheriff (Florida)
Oversight of the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program
July 15, 2016 – Washington, DC

Chairman Mica, Chairman DeSantis, and Members of the Committee:

It is indeed an honor and a privilege for me to provide testimony to the Subcommittees on Transportation and Public Assets and National Security of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I will be addressing the valuable projects funded in previous years by the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program, our DHS and FEMA efforts to reassess the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL MSA, and the need to continue funding to sustain our projects to strengthen and secure the Central Florida region to prevent another Orlando Pulse incident.

The Central Florida region has been fortunate to receive approximately \$45,502,824 in UASI funding from DHS since 2004. However, we have not received funding since 2013 (only \$950,000 in 2014 discretionary funds). The funding received prior to 2013 was critical to enhance our region's ability to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from not only terrorism, but a broad range of other threats and hazards affecting our entire region. I will briefly discuss a few of these regional projects that have enhanced our region's capabilities.

Central Florida Intelligence Exchange (CFIX) Fusion Center Project:

One of the most accomplished and notable regional partnership projects in Central Florida that was funded by UASI is our Central Florida Intelligence Exchange (CFIX) Fusion Center. CFIX is modeled after a number of highly successful counter terrorism and intelligence fusion centers throughout the country. It is centrally located in the state as well as in Region 5 of the state's Regional Domestic Security Task Force. It serves as a central repository for a wide array of databases that are currently being used by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and other law enforcement agencies throughout the state, as well as the many databases available via federal and other joint agreements. CFIX is a unique entity that identifies with Central Florida's law enforcement needs. It provides "one stop shopping" for information and intelligence stored in a multitude of automated files maintained in open source, commercial vendor and confidential law enforcement databases. In addition, CFIX acts as a clearinghouse designed to accurately analyze and assess the voluminous amount of information and intelligence received from open sources, law enforcement and other agencies throughout the state. In this capacity, CFIX serves as an "All Hazards" fusion center, assisting agencies in the mitigation and assistance needed to recover from hazards, such as hurricanes, hazmat situations, tornadoes and other natural disasters. CFIX assists with investigations of crimes that possibly contain a nexus to terrorist activity or other homeland security issues and also provides the added benefit of identifying parallel investigations, reducing duplication of effort and enhancing officer safety.

Due to the lack of funding, some critical needs have been lost at CFIX, i.e., key analysts' positions (cyber security and emergency management), risk management software, and valuable training for the analysts and staff.

I would like to share with you a couple success stories resulting from CFIX.

- CFIX received several requests for information from the US Marshals Service (USMS) to attempt to determine the location of several different wanted federal fugitives with criminal warrants. One of the subjects was also a wanted immigration violator who had absconded from federal judicial proceedings and was believed to be residing in the Central Florida region. The USMS contacted CFIX after previously exhausting all investigative leads to see if CFIX could provide any additional leads or information that would lead to the capture of the wanted subjects. CFIX was able to use available resources and databases to determine the location and fraudulent identities used by the subjects along with the locations where the subjects were residing via social media intelligence and facial recognition. This information allowed the USMS to locate the wanted subjects locally and throughout the southern United States.
- CFIX received a request for information from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) for notification of any threats pertaining to the launch of space shuttle Endeavor. The State Fire Marshal's Office (FL) received a letter and forwarded a copy to CFIX regarding a disgruntled citizen who was recently denied a permit to host an event of "burning the Quran for free speech" due to burning restrictions and drought conditions in that area. In the letter, the disgruntled citizen explained how President Obama would be damaged by his action and the USSS was getting in the way. He also mentioned other implications as well. CFIX provided a copy of this letter to the USSS and USCG for situational awareness. The USSS contacted CFIX and advised they were familiar with the author of the letter; however, they were not aware of his whereabouts or recent implications towards them or the President.

National Infrastructure Protection Program (NIPP) Project:

Another UASI project build out in the funding years was the National Infrastructure Protection Program-Regional Camera Video Surveillance project. The camera project includes the International Drive District, downtown Orlando, and the second largest university in the United States, the University of Central Florida.

Due to the loss of funding, the project has not been able extend past those areas to include some of the top tourist visited areas in Central Florida and the other five counties in our Orlando/Orange UASI region. The cameras have been instrumental in the capture of two homicide suspects and one attempted murder suspect, and assisted in safely monitoring numerous persons of interest in federal investigations. They have also allowed us to safely monitor protest groups around critical infrastructures without the need of sending first responders into the area of the protest.

Orlando/Orange UASI Training Exercises:

Over the years our region has participated in multi-discipline and agency table top, functional and full-scale exercises (FSE) funded by the Orlando/Orange UASI including Brevard and Volusia counties. These exercises have assisted in identifying gaps and preparing for mass casualty, catastrophic events.

- October 29, 2008 UASI Evacuation Plan Tabletop Exercise
- June 2010 UASI Brevard County Full-Scale Exercise

- July 2010 UASI Osceola County Full-Scale Exercise
- July 2010 UASI Volusia County Full-Scale Exercise
- September 15, 2011 UASI PRND Functional Exercise
- December 15, 2011 UASI Tabletop Exercise
- February 1, 2012 UASI NBA Functional Exercise
- September 25, 2012 UASI Community Medical Surge Tabletop Exercise
- March 14, 2013 Operation Crash & Surge Full Scale Medical Exercise
- June 12, 2014 HazMat & USAR Plume of Doom Table Top Exercise
- September 24, 2014 Urban Search and Rescue ADSAR Mobex Exercise
- October 27, 2014 HazMat and USAR Operation Vanishing Mosquito FSE

The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) relative risk score has decreased drastically over the years and prevented us from receiving an allocation of UASI funds. Since 2012, we have appealed (listed below) every MSA relative risk score and asked DHS/FEMA for data used in the MSA Risk Methodology Formula. Each year, we have stated our Orlando/Orange UASI Strategy includes Brevard (Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL MSA) and Volusia (Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL MSA) counties and funded various projects totaling \$3.5 million. Because we have mutual agreements with those two counties and those two counties' relative risk score is 88 and 99, we feel it is important and critical to include them in building our strength in Central Florida. Brevard and Volusia law enforcement agencies responded and assisted with the recent Orlando Pulse incident. The FEMA response to each appeal has been the same answer; FEMA uses the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) geographical boundaries defined in the Federal Register when calculating the formula.

In September 2015, we began the process of asking the regional partners for assistance in combining Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL MSA and Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL MSA into the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL MSA. I, along with other elected officials from our region, as well as city and county officials, sent numerous letters to FEMA Assistant Administrator of Grant Programs, Brian Kamoie, OMB Chief Statistician, Katherine K. Wallman, and OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Mabel Echols, in support of combining the above MSAs (see attached). Members of my staff have presented our initiative across the region at various council meetings and visited the offices of local Congressmen for their support. Recently, in May of 2016, my staff met with DHS/FEMA, Florida Congressmen, and Members of the Appropriations Committee in Washington, DC to request their support. Here is our timeline of efforts:

- August 21, 2013
 - Meeting and tour of CFIX with Elected Officials/Legislators to discuss the CFIX mission and the CFIX/Orlando/Orange UASI funding issues.
- October 28, 2014
 - Meeting with DHS Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis Francis Taylor at CFIX to discuss the CFIX/Orlando/Orange UASI funding issues.
- June 28, 2015
 - Meeting with DHS Assistant Secretary Heather Fong to discuss the CFIX/Orlando/Orange UASI funding issues and provided documentation.

- September 14, 2015
 - Space Coast League of Cities Presentation
 - President signed Resolution #04-2015
- September 16, 2015
 - East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) Presentation. Senator Nelson's Regional Director, Helen Miller was in attendance.
 - ECFRPC Chair signed Resolution #06-2015
 - MSA letter of support templates were sent to Fire and Emergency Management disciplines.
- September 17, 2015
 - Tri-County League of Cities Presentation
 - President signed Resolution #015-02 on October 5, 2015
- September 22, 2015
 - Sheriff Demings sent out MSA letter of support templates to Sheriffs and Chiefs.
- October 5, 2015
 - Presented to UASI Executive Board and UAWG the UASI initiative of combining Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL MSA and Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL MSA with Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL MSA.
- October 13, 2015
 - Meeting with Congressman Grayson's Director of Operations, Jose Rodriguez.
 - Meeting with Congresswoman Brown's Area Director, Ronita Sanders.
- October 14, 2015
 - Meeting with Congressman DeSantis' District Representative, Naomi D'Antonio.
- October 22, 2015
 - Meeting with Congressman Webster's Constituent Services Representative, Samuel Green.
- October 30, 2015
 - Meeting with Volusia County Chiefs Association. They signed the MSA letters of support on 10/8/15.
 - Meeting with Congressman Mica's District Aide, Thomas Larsen.
- November 9, 2015
 - Congressman Mica was in town and met with him to discuss our initiative.
- November 10, 2015
 - Fedex the MSA letters of support to:
 - Brian E. Kamoie, FEMA Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
 - Mabel Echols, OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (Mr. Kamoie suggested we send the letters to her too)
 - Katherine K. Wallman, OMB Chief Statistician
- November 19, 2015
 - Sheriff Demings met with Helen Miller from Senator Nelson's office.
- January 15, 2016
 - MSA letter to appeal 2016 MSA Relative Risk Score was submitted to DHS.
- January 20, 2016
 - Emails were sent out to all the individuals we met at the Congressmen and Congresswoman's offices informing them of our drop in ranking.

- January 27, 2016
 - Congressman Mica and Congressman Webster sent a MSA appeal letter to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson.
- January 29, 2016
 - Congressman Grayson sent a MSA appeal letter to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson.
- May 9, 2016
 - OCSO, OPD, and Legislative Director with Orange County Mayor Jacob's office met with Andrew Giacini, legislative aide to Congressman Mica about our initiative and their research on the OMB MSA.
 - OCSO, OPD, and Legislative Director with Orange County Mayor Jacob's office met with Professional Staff Members to the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security.
- May 10, 2016
 - OCSO, OPD, and Legislative Director with Orange County Mayor Jacob's office met with U.S. Department of Homeland Security and FEMA on our initiative.
 - OCSO, OPD, and Legislative Director with Orange County Mayor Jacob's office met with Congressman Mica on our initiative.
- May 11, 2016
 - OCSO, OPD, and Legislative Director with Orange County Mayor Jacob's office met with Congressman DeSantis and Congressman Ross on our initiative.
 - OCSO, OPD, and Legislative Director with Orange County Mayor Jacob's office met with Congressman Graves, Congressman Duncan, Congressman Harris, Congressman Clawson, and Congressman Carter on our initiative.
 - Congressman Graves (GA) is the Chairman of Financial Services & General Government Appropriations Subcommittee.
 - Congressman Duncan (SC) is a Member of Homeland Security Committee.
 - Congressman Harris (MD) is a Member of Homeland Security Committee.
 - Congressman Clawson (FL)
 - Congressman Carter (TX) is a Chairman of Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

In combination with the MSA merging initiative, the staff also spoke on suggested recommendations to the MSA Risk Methodology Formula:

- Revise the Population Index (30% of overall assessment) to better address visitors to the region.
 - Central Florida MSA ranks #1 in domestic daily visitors. However, the overall Population Index rank for FY 2016 is 30th.
 - **Suggested Revision:** Incorporate and weigh international visitors into the equation.
- Link Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to Daily Visitors
 - Economic Impact of GDP accounts for 13% of an area's "relative risk."

- Central Florida is unique in that visitors to the region are also one of its “commodities of trade.” One credible attack in Central Florida would eliminate both the population and GDP (including visitors). The assessment should better address this link.
- **Suggested Revision:** Revise the “relative risk” scoring to account for this unique-to-Florida tie between GDP and visitors.
- Account for Bordering MSAs with International Waters
 - Bordering an international water body positively weights the “relative risk” score. The Central Florida MSA does not border international waters. However, it does border three MSAs that border international waters (Tampa Bay, Volusia and Brevard). The Central Florida UASI provides funding to both Brevard and Volusia to secure borders, despite neither county belonging to the Central Florida MSA and will never receive funding due to their low relative risk scores. Accordingly, it would make sense that Central Florida’s proximity to international water MSAs should be considered in assessing its “relative risk.”
 - **Suggested Revision:** Revise the scoring to account for MSAs that border three or more MSAs that border international waters.
- Increase funding to support the top high threat risk MSAs
 - Congressman Mica has expressed his support to increase funding from the current nationwide risk level of 85% to 90%, which includes the Central Florida MSA.

In closing, thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Orlando/Orange UASI and I ask the committee to analyze the current MSA Risk Methodology Formula and the data used in the formula to reflect the current threats and vulnerabilities in the Central Florida region. Also, please take into consideration the above suggested revisions to provide the resources to prepare, prevent, respond, and recover from catastrophic events due to the uniqueness of the Central Florida community, the number one tourist destination in the nation.

MSA Appeals

- 2016 Appeal submitted and denied
- 2014 Appeal submitted and denied
- 2013 Appeal submitted and denied
- 2012 Appeal submitted and denied

MSA Letters of Support (attached)

- June 29, 2016 from Congressman John L. Mica
- June 17, 2016 from Congressman John L. Mica
- June 15, 2016 from Senator Marco Rubio and Senator Bill Nelson
- January 29, 2016 from Congressman Alan Grayson
- January 27, 2016 from Congressman John L. Mica and Congressman Daniel Webster
- November 4, 2015 to Brian Kamoie, Katherine Wallman and Mabel Echols
- March 27, 2014 from Congressman Daniel Webster
- February 12, 2014 from Congressman Bill Posey, Congressman Alan Grayson, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congressman John L. Mica, Congressman Daniel Webster

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0907
June 29, 2016

Sheriff Jerry Demings
Sheriff
Orange County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 1440
Orlando, FL 32802

RECEIVED
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Office of the Sheriff

Dear Jerry:

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on our community. I know you join me in being most grateful to our first responders and community leaders who have helped us in one of the most significant tragedies to face our community. We continue to keep the victims and families involved in this attack in our prayers.

Since the attack, I have called for and begun an investigation of some of the failures by the federal government in allowing this terrorist act to occur.

For some time, I have worked to address the danger terrorism poses to our community. When my Congressional District changed several years ago, I immediately requested meetings with our first responders and law enforcement leaders to fully understand the challenges and security threats Central Florida faces. Last year, Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings, Orlando Police Chief John Mina and other law enforcement officials informed me about the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) flawed Community Terrorism Risk Assessment for Central Florida. They expressed their concern to me that DHS, on the basis of this assessment, had reduced critical federal funds available to them under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program before completely stripping the Central Florida Region of eligibility in 2015.

DHS is responsible for evaluating the risk of terrorism attacks for communities across America. In 2015, DHS incorrectly assessed the Orlando Central Florida Metro Statistical Area as a community that was considered a low risk for a possible terrorist attack. Since 2014, this incorrect and dramatically flawed assessment by DHS has denied federal funding through the UASI program, keeping federal grants from the Orlando area that could have been used to address possible terrorist threats.

Despite my appeals and multiple requests by the Orlando Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Office to DHS to fix this flawed terrorist threat assessment, DHS refused to reconsider. Despite our pleas and concerns about soft targets, Central Florida was denied federal funding, which was instead directed to cities like Los Angeles, which received \$68 million of the program's \$600 million annual federal appropriation for 2016, and New York City, which received \$178 million.

In my January 27, 2016 appeal letter to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson, I concluded by saying, "[I]f Central Florida became a target, it would be a national disaster." The failure of DHS to accurately determine the risk of terrorist threats to Orlando represents one of the most egregious federal security miscalculations since 9/11.

As a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and senior member of the National Security Subcommittee, I have requested and we have begun a full review of this matter. These incorrect assessments and failures of federal agencies are unacceptable. I will work to hold those responsible accountable and ensure that these critical mistakes are corrected.

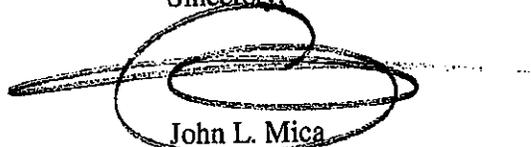
A congressional hearing on this matter will be conducted in the near future to review the status of Orlando's Threat Risk Assessment. Furthermore, I am confident that Congress will accept proposals that I have offered to ensure that Florida is not short-changed in receiving federal assistance to address the potential threats by terrorists. We are also working to reverse the initial denial disaster assistance, which was recently released by the Administration.

While we continue to mourn the lives of those lost in the attack, I believe it is important that their loss be properly remembered by our community.

I do not believe anyone will ever be able to pass by the site of this attack and not remember the wonderful lives of those who were lost on that morning. Earlier this week, I suggested to Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and the other City Commissioners that the city consider acquiring the Pulse and create a memorial park on that property. This could be an appropriate memorial to those lost in the Orlando terrorist attack. However, I will work with local officials and support any memorial they deem fitting and appropriate.

As we continue to recover and keep Central Florida and Orlando strong and united, I look forward to working with you and other community leaders as we address these serious challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

John L. Mica
Member of Congress

JOHN L. MICA
7TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

www.Mica.House.Gov
www.Facebook.Com/JohnMica

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0907

June 17, 2016

RECEIVED

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Office of the Sheriff

Jerry Demings
Orange County Sheriff
P.O. Box 1440
Orlando, FL 32802

Dear Sheriff Demings,

This past week, Orlando was hit with a tremendous tragedy, and we continue to mourn the loss of life in the recent terrorist attack. At the same time, I want to let you know I am working to make sure everything is done to ensure our community's safety in the future.

When my Congressional District changed several years ago, I immediately requested meetings with our first responders and law enforcement leaders to fully understand the challenges and security threats Central Florida faces. For some time I have worked to address the danger terrorism poses to our community. Last year, Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings, Orlando Police Chief John Mina and other law enforcement officials informed me about the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) flawed community terrorism Risk Assessment for Central Florida. They expressed their concern to me that DHS had reduced critical federal funds and completely stripped the Central Florida Region's eligibility and funds in 2015.

DHS is responsible for evaluating the risk of terrorism attacks for communities across America. In 2015, DHS refused to classify the Orlando Central Florida Metro Statistical Area as a community that was at risk of a possible terrorist attack. Since 2014, this incorrect and dramatically flawed assessment by DHS has denied federal funding through the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program, keeping federal grants from the Orlando area that could have been used to address possible terrorist threats.

Despite my appeals and multiple requests over the past years by the Orlando Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Office to DHS to reverse this flawed terrorist threat assessment, DHS refused to reconsider. Despite our pleas and concerns about soft targets, Central Florida was denied federal funding which was instead directed to cities like Los Angeles, which received \$68 million, and New York City, which received \$178 million, of the program's \$600 million annual federal appropriation for 2016.

In my January 27, 2016 appeal letter to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson, I concluded by saying, "[I]f Central Florida became a target, it would be a national disaster." The failure of DHS to accurately determine the risk of terrorist threats to Orlando represents one of the most egregious and inaccurate federal security miscalculations since 9/11.

As a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and senior Member of the National Security Subcommittee, I have requested an investigation and a full review of this matter and the gross national security assessment failure.

These incorrect assessments and failures of federal agencies are unacceptable. I will work to hold those responsible accountable and ensure that these critical mistakes are corrected. Please know that I welcome your counsel on this vital matter.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Mica". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop that extends to the left and then curves back to the right, crossing over itself.

John L. Mica
Member of Congress

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2016

The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We write you today as our state grieves the loss of 49 victims in a horrendous, premeditated and coordinated terrorist attack in the heart of Orlando. Many questions still remain about this specific tragedy and investigations are ongoing. As federal, state and local agencies analyze source data, determine motivation and the effectiveness of response to better understand the chain of events that led to the carnage on June 12, we also must look forward and do what we can to prevent future attacks.

Specifically, as Florida's Senators, we share concerns that federal security and anti-terrorism resources have not adequately focused on Central Florida. Orlando, and its surrounding communities, welcome more daily visitors than any other area in the United States, over 66 million annually. Its theme parks are known around the world and many of them are synonymous with the American way of life. At a time when terrorists have increasingly shifted their strategy to "soft targets" susceptible to mass casualty events, Federal, state and local authorities must maintain a heightened level of vigilance and dedicate adequate resources to protect the people of the Orlando area and the many visitors they so graciously welcome.

We are also aware that, even before the recent tragedy, the Central Florida area has been affected by multiple terrorist plots. Both the Boston bombing terrorists and the 9/11 perpetrators had ties to Central Florida. The area has also received multiple bomb threats to a variety of locations.

One federal program, the Urban Area Security Initiative, provides important support to help certain high-threat urban areas to prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks. For the last several years, Orlando has not qualified for funding under this initiative, despite its obvious global-profile and vulnerability. In light of the recent tragedy, previous history with terrorist investigations, and emerging terrorist threats, we respectfully suggest you reevaluate the Relative Risk Score and Threat Level your Department applies to the Orlando area under this program with heavily weighted consideration of the Joint Terrorism Task Force input.

Thank you for your consideration,



Senator Marco Rubio



Senator Bill Nelson

ALAN GRAYSON
9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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grayson.house.gov

January 29, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

I respectfully request that that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reexamine and correct the FY 2016 risk profile for the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

The draft profile issued on January 4, 2016 assigned the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA a relative risk score of 34. This score is lower than the FY 2014 and FY 2015 ranking (32), FY 2013 ranking (30), and markedly below the FY 2012 ranking (27).

I fail to see how this reduced ranking can be justified when every risk component in the formula – Threat (30%) – Vulnerability (20%) – Consequence (50%) – shows either the same, or greater, risk to the region. I therefore request that your risk profile review assign a relative risk score that more accurately reflects the heightened security concerns of the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA.

Threat Component

In recent years, there have been numerous threats to the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. In 2013, the University of Central Florida averted a potential mass shooting due to the quick response of local law enforcement agencies. In 2009, Jason Rodriguez committed a mass shooting of an office building in downtown Orlando, resulting in the closure of Interstate 4 and the lockdown of nearby schools and businesses. Just last month, due to the fear of increased terrorism and gun violence, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Florida, and SeaWorld Orlando all began using metal detectors at their theme parks.

It is worth noting that some of the most significant threats to the U.S. homeland had ties to the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. The 2013 Boston Marathon bombing terrorists had direct

ties to a person of interest, Ibragim Todashev, a Chechen-born individual who was living in Orlando when he was shot and killed after attacking an FBI agent and two Massachusetts State Troopers in his apartment on May 22, 2013. The majority of the 9/11 hijackers passed through Central Florida and Orlando International Airport, with several of the hijackers trained at the nearby Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach. In August 2001, a potential "20th hijacker" was prevented from entering the U.S. by an alert border agent at Orlando International Airport.

These examples, together with the continuous work at Orlando International Airport to avert both domestic and international attacks, demands an enhanced FY 2016 risk profile for the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA.

Vulnerability Component

The 'Vulnerability Component' of the relative risk formula is comprised of two indices, the 'Targeted Infrastructure Index' and the 'Border Index'.

Targeted Infrastructure Index

The 'Targeted Infrastructure Index' is defined as:

A subset of the DHS Office of Cyber & Infrastructure Analysis (OCIA) Level 1/Level 2 count that represents assets/systems in the UASI within sectors that DHS/I&A deems terrorists are more likely to attack, including: aviation; mass transit and commuter rail; oil and natural gas facilities (refineries, storage facilities, tankers, and pipelines); and large public facilities and venues (hotels, resorts, stadiums and arenas, and large office buildings).

It is clear that every category identified above favors a higher FY 2016 risk profile ranking for the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. Indeed, a review of the area's relevant "assets/systems" highlights the following potential targets:

Large Public Facilities and Venues

Walt Disney World: a 25,000 acre complex with four theme parks, 24 themed resorts, two water parks, and several additional venues; the complex is the most visited attraction in the world, with approximately 53 million visitors per year

Universal Studios Florida: the eighth- most visited theme park in the U.S., with nearly 8.2 million visitors per year

Sea World Orlando: the tenth- most visited theme park in the U.S., with 4.6 million visitors per year

Orange County Convention Center: the second largest convention center in the U.S.; hosts more than one million attendees per year

University of Central Florida: the second largest university in the nation, with an enrollment of over 63,000 students

Central Florida Research Park: the fourth largest research park in the nation by number of companies, and the seventh largest in the nation by number of employees

Citrus Bowl: frequently fills to capacity (60,000 seats) during college football games and concerts

Aviation

Orlando International Airport (MCO): the 13th busiest airport in the U.S., 14th largest airport in the U.S., and 29th busiest airport in the world, with nearly 35 million domestic and international passengers; principal gateway for visitors traveling to Port Canaveral, the second largest cruise port in the nation

Orlando-Sanford International Airport (SFB): home of Aerosim Flight Academy, which trains prospective regional airline and international pilots, making it among the 30 busiest airports in the world

Orlando Executive Airport (ORL): a landing site and staging area for Marine Helicopter Squadron One (VMX-1) and supporting helicopter operations during Presidential visits to Orlando

Kissimmee Gateway Airport (ISM): protects the Disney Temporary Flight Restricted Area immediately to its northwest, and hosts the local County Sheriff's Air Unit, the closest responder to Central Florida's theme parks

Mass Transit and Commuter Rail

Florida's Turnpike: the third most heavily travelled toll road in the U.S.

Interstate 4: 200,000 drivers daily through downtown Orlando

LYNX Commuter Bus System: 85,000 daily riders and over 30 million total passenger trips in FY 2014

SunRail: nearly 4,000 passengers daily

Oil and Natural Gas Facilities

Sabal Trail Natural Gas Pipeline: this new \$3 billion project will form part of a 465-mile interstate natural gas pipeline for Florida Power and Light Company

Border Index

The 'Border Index' is comprised of 'international waters,' 'international borders,' and 'border crossings.' While the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA does not contain international waters or international borders, millions of international border crossings occur at area airports. The FY 2016 draft risk profile notes that there were 2,715,469 air crossings into the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA.

It is important to note, however, than a June 2015 report entitled 'Overseas Visitation Estimates for U.S. States, Cities, and Census Regions: 2014' prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Travel and Tourism Industries states that Orlando received more than four million international visitors – *excluding* visitors from Canada and Mexico. This number puts Orlando fourth among all American cities for number of overseas visitors annually (behind only New York City, Miami, and Los Angeles). This discrepancy must be addressed before any MSA risk profile for FY 2016 can be finalized.

Given the significant number of high-visibility targets in the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA, including the largest and most famous tourist attraction in the world, there is substantial reason to believe that this MSA is more likely to be attacked than others. Furthermore, the high number of border crossings and international visitors in the area are grounds to increase, rather than decrease, the current 2016 risk profile for the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA.

Consequence Component

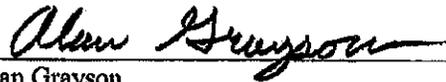
The third and final component of the FY 2016 risk analysis is the 'Consequence Component.' This component is comprised of four indices: population (population density, commuters, and visitors); economic (GDP); national infrastructure; and national security.

Given the population of the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA, the large number of visitors it hosts each year, the significant number of U.S. corporations that operate in the area, and the disproportionate impact a terrorist attack would have on our region's GDP – the world's largest tourist destination – I do not understand how our area received in a Consequence Index score of 34, barely an increase from FY 2015's rank of 35. I believe the factors outlined above require a higher FY 2016 risk profile.

I thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns regarding the methodology by which the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford risk profile was determined. Again, I ask that you reexamine those areas in which I have expressed concern, and assign the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA a higher relative risk score than 34.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Nichola, of my staff, at 202-225-9889 or Mike.Nichola@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Grayson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2016

**The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
US Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW, Mail Stop 0150
Washington, DC 20528-0150**

Dear Secretary Johnson:

Earlier this month the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Florida statistical area received its 2016 MSA Risk Profile Rank. Although other regions of the country may be seeing an increase of individual risk, causing the Orlando area's rank to drop, it is our belief that Central Florida's risk is being inaccurately calculated. This dramatically affects their UASI funding and impacts the region's ability to properly prepare for potential threats and react to an event accordingly.

The Orange County Sheriff's office and Chief of Police for Orlando sent the Department of Homeland Security a letter of appeal regarding their 2016 risk profile. We write to you in support of that appeal.

The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL statistical area received funding in prior years, allowing them to purchase equipment, coordinate planning, conduct training, execute readiness exercises and enhance regional communications for all disciplines. A few examples of projects that have been funded by the UASI are the nationally recognized Fusion Center (Central Florida Intelligence Exchange), Regional Urban Search and Rescue Team (FL Task Force 4), Regional Hazardous Materials teams, Regional EOD teams and enhancements of the National Infrastructure Protection program in the Central Florida area.

With the miscalculation or the lowered ranking of the statistical area, they will not receive appropriate funding and thus the continuation of these important and similar initiatives are significantly jeopardized.

Central Florida is a target of opportunity and vulnerable to all types of terrorist activities. Orlando is ranked 4th in the Top U.S. Destinations for Foreign Travelers reported by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries. The MSA has over 2.3 million residents and the Population Index indicates 211 million additional visitor days are spent in the area yearly. It also holds the second largest college in the U.S., two international airports and countless military and defense contractors.

If Central Florida became a target, it would be a national disaster. This is why we encourage you to support Central Florida's appeal request and reassess the Risk Profile Rank.

Sincerely,


**John L. Mica
Member of Congress**


**Daniel Webster
Member of Congress**



Sheriff Jerry L. Demings

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

TELEPHONE: 407.254.7000 ❖ P.O. BOX 1440, ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32802-1440 ❖ WWW.OCSO.COM

November 4, 2015

Brian E. Kamoie, Assistant Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
for Grant Programs
U. S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Kamoie:

The Orange County Sheriff's Office is in support of a petition to be filed by the Orlando/Orange Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) to combine the three Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville (Brevard), and Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach (Volusia), into one East Central Florida MSA. From the inception of the Orlando/Orange UASI, a regional approach was put into practice to assist surrounding MSAs whose Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Relative Risk Profiles have always scored below the funding line. This logical and necessary decision served to strengthen the entire East Central Florida region and the state of Florida against terrorist attacks. The Orlando/Orange UASI has been consistent partners with our agency as well as other agencies in our county for regional emergency response, intelligence information gathering and sharing, disaster planning, training programs, equipment, and exercises.

In 2015, the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA dropped five rankings on the funding list to 32 from 27 in 2012. Since Congress decided to fund only 28 MSAs, the Orlando/Orange UASI was not eligible to receive any funding to continue current projects or create new projects. Although the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville and Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach defined MSA regions function as part of an urban region in East Central Florida, they are not combined into the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford DHS Relative Risk Profile.

In the *Federal Register, Part IV, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas*, Notice D., it states, "a Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) is a geographic entity associated with at least one core of 10,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties." The East Central Florida Region meets all the measures and thresholds in the *Federal Register*, under Notice D., Section 4: Merging of Adjacent Core Based Statistical Areas. Many residents of the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville and Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach metro areas commute to Orange County to attend the nation's second largest university, the University of Central Florida. They also commute to Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties for employment to include the second largest convention center in the nation, the world's top theme parks, the thriving hospitality industry, as well as global aerospace and military defense businesses.



The First Law Enforcement Agency
in Orange County to Receive Both
International and State Accreditation



Mr. Brian E. Kamoie
November 4, 2015
Page Two

Besides the University of Central Florida, the East Central Florida region also has numerous Community and private colleges including Daytona State College, Seminole State College, Valencia College, Stetson University, Bethune-Cookman College, Adventist University of Health Sciences, Hindu University of America, Johnson University, Reformed Theological Seminary, as well as numerous trade and technical institutions.

In addition to the commuting ties, the East Central Florida region is a favorite tourism location from a domestic and international perspective (in 2014 Orange County became the first destination to surpass 60 million visitors and set new record for U.S. Tourism Industry), a factor that immediately elevates the threat of terrorism from sources outside of the continental United States.

Some of the more popular tourist destinations within the three MSAs are as follows:

Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA:

Walt Disney World, International Drive, Universal Resort, Orlando International Airport, Orange County Convention Center, Disney's Magic Kingdom, Disney's Epcot Center, Disney's Animal Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Universal Islands of Adventure, SeaWorld, Universal Studios, Disney's Typhoon Lagoon, Disney's Blizzard Beach, Aquatica, The Mall at Millenia, Amway Center, Wet n' Wild, Discovery Cove, International Drive tourist corridor, Dr. Philips Performing Arts Center, Florida's Citrus Bowl, Disney's Wide World of Sports, and Orlando City Soccer Stadium.

Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville (Brevard) MSA:

Kennedy Space Center (This site has provided the United States of America an aeronautical, military, imaging and extra-planetary capability.), Port Canaveral- the second-busiest port in the world (forecasted to be the busiest cruise terminal in the world in 2016), Cocoa Beach Pier (Cocoa Beach - world famous for its beaches and surfing), Lori Wilson Beach Park (Cocoa Beach), Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Patrick Air Force Base, Brevard Naval Sub Base (Trident submarine port), and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach (Volusia) MSA:

Daytona Beach International Speedway, World famous Daytona beach, Daytona Beach Boardwalk, Ponce Inlet (New Smyrna Beach), and LPGA International which serves as host of numerous LPGA Tour Championships.

Mr. Brian E. Kamoie
November 4, 2015
Page Three

Benefits for sustainment of federal funding for emergency response and preparedness include:

- Central Florida Intelligence Exchange (Fusion Center) to gather and share critical intelligence information regionally and statewide;
- Training for all disciplines to prevent, prepare, respond, and recover from a critical terrorist incident;
- Sustains Florida Task Force 4, a Regional Urban Search and Rescue Team located in Central Florida;
- Sustains Regional Hazardous Materials Teams;
- Supports Regional training facilities both for Hazardous Materials and Urban Search and Rescue; and
- Critical equipment purchases for law enforcement response and terrorism prevention.

In closing, I respectfully request that actions be taken on the petition to merge the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, and Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville into one larger MSA/CBSA which will create an appropriate and realistic Relative Risk Score/Rank reflective of the uniqueness of the region to enable the Department of Homeland Security UASI grant program to secure federal funds for the benefit of the East Central Florida Region.

Sincerely,



Jerry L. Demings
Sheriff of Orange County

JLD/tlm

DANIEL WEBSTER
10TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0908

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1039 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2176
(202) 225-0999 (FAX)

WINTER GARDEN OFFICE:
300 WEST PLANT STREET
WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787
(407) 654-5705
(407) 654-5814 (FAX)

March 27, 2014

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Price:

Central Florida is home to many world class tourist destinations and convention space. More than 50 million people visit Central Florida each year, yet these are not taken into account during the threat assessment conducted by the Department of Homeland Security for the purpose of administering the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program.

As you prepare to develop the Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include report language encouraging the Secretary of Homeland Security to consider the total average daily population of metropolitan statistical areas in assessing threats for the purpose of UASI grants.

Report Language Request: Consideration of total average daily population of MSAs for UASI Grants: The Committee recognizes the importance of the Department of Homeland Security's State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Area Security Initiative grants for partnering with state and local law enforcement in planning and preparation for, prevention of and response to a homeland security incident. The Committee believes that the Secretary of Homeland Security, in conducting vulnerability and threat assessments of metropolitan statistical areas, should take into consideration increases in average daily population resulting from high levels of tourism.

I encourage you to include this important report language in the Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

EMAIL VIA WEBSITE: webster.house.gov

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reexamine and correct the FY 2014 risk profile for the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

The draft profile issued on January 30, 2014, assigned the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA a relative risk score of 32. This score is lower than the FY2013 ranking (30), and markedly below the FY2012 ranking (27).

We fail to see how this reduced ranking can be justified when every risk component in the formula – Threat (30%) – Vulnerability (20%) – Consequence (50%) – shows an increased risk to the region, and most certainly not a decreased one. We therefore request that your risk profile review assign a relative risk score that more accurately reflects the heightened security concerns of the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA that we proudly represent.

Threat Component

The 'Threat Component' of the relative risk formula is defined as:

An assessment compiled by DHS/I&A of credible threats to the Homeland. This assessment includes information from foreign intelligence collection and counterterrorism investigations that have revealed known and credible extremist plots, casings, threats, or aspirations. The Threat Index considers both international and domestic terrorism.

The single most significant event in 2013 that posed a "threat to the Homeland" was the bombing of the Boston Marathon. It is, therefore, critically important to note that Ibragim Todashev, a Chechen-born individual with direct ties to the Boston bombing terrorists, was living in Orlando when he was shot and killed after attacking an FBI agent and two Massachusetts State Troopers in his apartment on May 22, 2013.

This incident, together with the continuous work at Orlando International Airport to avert both domestic and international attacks, demands an enhanced FY 2014 risk profile for the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA.

Vulnerability Component

The 'Vulnerability Component' of the relative risk formula is comprised of two indices, the 'Targeted Infrastructure Index' and the 'Border Index'.

Targeted Infrastructure Index

The 'Targeted Infrastructure Index' is defined as:

A subset of the DHS/IP Level 1/Level 2 count that represents assets/systems in the MSA within sectors that DHS/I&A deems terrorists are more likely to attack, including: aviation, mass transit and commuter rail; oil and natural gas facilities (refineries, storage facilities, tankers, and pipelines); and large public facilities and venues (hotels, resorts, stadiums and arenas, and large office buildings).

It is clear that every category identified above favors a higher FY 2014 risk profile ranking for the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA. Indeed, a review of the area's "relevant assets/systems" highlights the following potential targets:

Large Public Facilities and Venues

Walt Disney World: a 25,000 acre complex with four theme parks, 24 themed resorts, two water parks, and several additional venues; the complex is the most visited attraction in the world, with approximately 52.5 million visitors per year

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Aviation

Orlando International Airport (MCO): the 13th-busiest airport in the U.S. and the 29th busiest airport in the world, with nearly 35 million domestic and international passengers; principal gateway for visitors travelling to Port Canaveral, the second largest cruise port in the nation

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Sabal Trail Natural Gas Pipeline: this new \$3 billion project will form part of a 465-mile interstate natural gas pipeline for Florida Power and Light Company

Border Index

The 'Border Index' is comprised of 'international waters', 'international borders', and 'border crossings'. While the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA does not contain international waters or international borders, millions of international border crossings occur at area airports. The FY2014 risk profile notes that there were 2,345,082 air crossings into the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA.

It is important to note, however, that an August 2013 report entitled 'Overseas Visitation Estimates for U.S. States, Cities, and Census Regions: 2012' prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Travel and Tourism Industries states that Orlando received more than three million international visitors – *excluding* visitors from Canada and Mexico. This number puts Orlando fourth among all American cities for number of overseas visitors annually (behind only New York City, Miami, and Long Angeles-Long Beach). This discrepancy must be addressed before any MSA risk profile for FY2014 can be finalized.

Given the significant number of high-visibility targets in the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA, including the largest and most famous tourist attraction in the world, there is substantial reason to believe that this MSA is more likely to be attacked than others. Furthermore, the high number of border crossings and international visitors in the area are grounds to increase, rather than decrease, the current 2014 risk profile for the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA.

Consequence Component

The third and final component of the FY2014 risk analysis is the 'Consequence Component'. This component is comprised of four indices: population (population density, commuters, and visitors); economic (GDP); national infrastructure, and national security.

Given the population of the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA, the large number of visitors it hosts each year, the significant number of U.S. corporations that operate in the area, and the disproportionate impact a terrorist attack would have on our region's GDP – the world's largest tourist destination, we do not understand how these factors could have produced a lower Consequence Component score than in previous years. The draft risk profile your agency provided does not contain the information that would allow us to review the data used to calculate your rankings. We therefore ask that you make this data available for us to review before finalizing any MSA risk profile for FY2014.

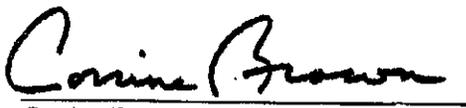
We thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the methodology by which the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford risk profile was determined. We ask that you reexamine those areas in which we have expressed concern, and look forward to receiving the data we have requested.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,


Bill Posey
Member of Congress


Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


John Mica
Member of Congress


Daniel Webster
Member of Congress