



U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STENY H. HOYER
DEMOCRATIC WHIP

September 9, 2003

Dennis Schrader, Director
Maryland Office of Homeland Security
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Dennis:

Thank you for participating in the Homeland Security Forum sponsored by my office last month. We greatly appreciate you taking time from your busy schedule to provide valuable information which will assist our region in being fully prepared and equipped to deal with the many security issues we face.

In today's world each and every one of us must address the ongoing concerns of protecting our families and community from terrorism. Much attention and debate has centered on how best to prepare our local communities and it continues to be a top priority of mine. Without a doubt, our first responders, including local firefighters and EMS personnel, law enforcement and health officials and our local governments, are on the frontline in our hometowns providing the essential components in protecting citizens in our communities. Your participation in the forum was both insightful and beneficial in helping all of us better understand the issues and the process and we all look forward to continuing to work with you on this very complex problem.

Again, thank you for participating and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steny Hoyer", written over the printed name.

STENY H. HOYER