

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2007

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Leader John Boehner
Office of the House Republican Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman David Obey
House Appropriations Committee
H-218, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Jerry Lewis
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner, Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

As the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations process nears conclusion, we are writing to secure your commitment to appropriate \$100 million for security costs associated with the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota and the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

The Department of Homeland Security has designated both conventions "National Special Security Events," making our cities officially eligible to receive federal funding. A full and timely appropriation of the federal share of convention security costs is imperative for the successful planning and execution of next year's national party nominating conventions. The request amount is consistent with the precedent established in the 2004 Presidential election cycle, when the host cities of Boston and New York each received \$50 million in federal discretionary grants for the purpose of reimbursing State and local law enforcement entities for costs related to providing security at the national party nominating conventions. As in 2004, federal funding for next year's conventions will supplement private, State and local contributions to cover the overall cost of security.

In addition, appropriating the funds by the end of 2007 or early in 2008 is essential since convention planning is already well underway in Denver and St. Paul. The host cities are now incurring security-related costs and have stressed the importance of receiving federal funds as soon as possible. Unlike New York and other large host cities for previous conventions, Denver and St. Paul are unable to absorb security costs in their existing budgets and wait for federal reimbursement.

To ensure security planning for the conventions continues without interruption we are seeking assurances that \$100 million will be appropriated and disbursed to the designated local law enforcement agencies in Denver and St. Paul in either a final Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations measure or near-term supplemental appropriations legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

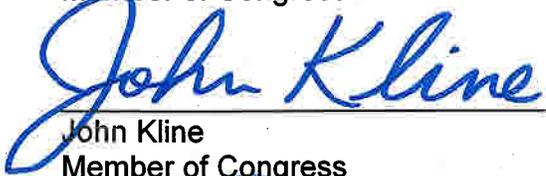
Sincerely,



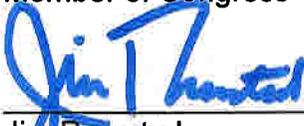
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Timothy Walz
Member of Congress



John Kline
Member of Congress



Jim Ramstad
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



James Oberstar
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Mark Udall
Member of Congress



John Salazar
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Cc: Mayor John Hickenlooper, Denver
Mayor Chris Coleman, St. Paul
Chairman Howard Dean, Democratic National Committee
Chairman Mike Duncan, Republican National Committee