

DAVE CAMP
4TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

**COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

TRADE
HUMAN RESOURCES
HEALTH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2204

April 17, 2003

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The Honorable Tom Ridge
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Ridge:

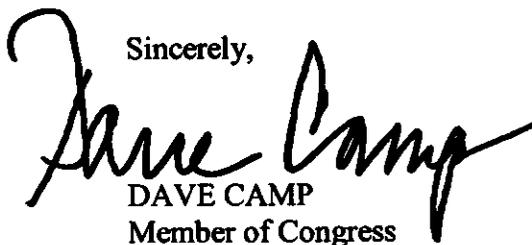
I am writing to request that you consider including Detroit, Michigan in the Urban Area Security Initiative.

No single place in America better illustrates the challenges facing homeland security than the border crossings in the Detroit region. Border crossings in Detroit handled \$94 billion worth of NAFTA trade in 2000, accounting for 16 percent of all U.S. land trade. Additionally, the Detroit-Windsor tunnel has over 9 million annual crossings, making it the busiest passenger vehicle tunnel on the northern border. The federal government must facilitate the urgent need to balance national security needs with ensuring the continuity of the flow of commerce and travel.

The importance of the Michigan-Canada border cannot be overestimated. A terrorist attack in Detroit could shut down trade and travel between the U.S. and Canada and prolong the immediate economic and security repercussions. As the eighth largest metropolitan area in the country, Detroit's unique position as a major international border crossing, as well as its importance as a gateway for trade, necessitates its inclusion in the Urban Area Security Initiative. The first responders in Detroit would benefit immensely from additional training and funding administered through the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) under this program.

I request that you reevaluate the formula for selecting cities to participate in the Urban Area Security Initiative and consider including the Detroit metropolitan area. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you on essential homeland security issues.

Sincerely,


DAVE CAMP
Member of Congress