



CONTACT: MATTHEW CHASE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ♦ 202.624.7806 ♦ MCHASE@NADO.ORG
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 14, 2007

9/11 IMPLEMENTATION BILL SUPPORTS ROLE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC — On August 3, President George W. Bush signed legislation (HR 1) which implements recommendations of the 9/11 Commission while also recognizing the established role regional development organizations play in state and local homeland security planning and preparedness efforts.

The reform bill for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), sponsored by House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS), codifies a number of recommendations made by the 2004 National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), including first responder, interoperable communication and transit security grant reform.

Working in close collaboration with House committee staff, NADO successfully secured language in the conference report (H. Rept.110-259) that explicitly recognizes the national network of multi-jurisdictional planning organizations as a well-established and experienced mechanism that should be utilized in the homeland security grant-making process. Specifically, the conference report (H. Rept.110-259) states:

“The Conferees are aware that many multi-jurisdictional councils of government, regional planning commissions, development districts and consortiums have responsibility for implementing emergency response plans and coordinating cross-jurisdictional response capabilities, and urges the Department to support the continued use of such entities.”

NADO President Dan Bollinger of the Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center praised Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Peter King (R-NY) for their recognition of regional development organizations and their efforts to encourage regional homeland security planning and cooperation. “We are continually reminded that disasters, man-made or natural, do not respect political boundaries. When a disaster strikes, effective regional preparation and coordination among response entities from all levels of government, nonprofit agencies and the private sector are the keys to successful response and recovery efforts.”

Bollinger continued, “Regional development organizations bring a unique, unbiased perspective to the homeland security planning process. The national network of 525 regional development organizations are an established, well-positioned and diverse network standing ready to help coordinate, plan and implement regional preparedness activities. We applaud Congress and the Bush administration for recognizing these strengths as part of the 9/11 Commission legislation.”

NADO Executive Director Matthew Chase explained, “This language is an important step in carving out a defined role for regional development organizations and regional councils at the sub-state, state and federal levels. It builds on language included in last year’s FEMA reform bill (HR 5351), as well as previous versions of first responder grant reform legislation. The members of NADO applaud Chairman Thompson’s continued support and look forward to working with the Department to strengthen regional planning and preparedness capabilities nationwide.”

###

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) promotes public policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts and program expertise of the nation’s regional development organizations.

ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, NETWORKING AND RESEARCH FOR THE NATION’S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS
400 North Capitol, NW ♦ Suite 390 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 ♦ 202.624.7806 Tel ♦ 202.624.8813 Fax ♦ Info@nado.org ♦ Nado.org