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May 27, 2011

Ms. Mary Mazanec, Director
Congressional Research Service
Library of Congress, LM 203
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Ms. Mazanec:

On behalf of the members of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), I would like to bring to your attention what our association views as a misrepresentation of our 2006 and 2008 Biennial Survey data in a recent CRS memorandum of March 18, 2011, entitled *Federal Funding of State and Local Emergency Communications Projects*.

While the CRS memorandum accurately represents the NEMA data when discussing our reports specifically at the top of page 5, lower on that same page under "Estimated Federal Expenditures," the CRS memorandum mischaracterizes the NEMA report and its findings. The data from the 2006 and 2008 NEMA surveys are state EMA directors' *estimates* of funds they thought, at the time, would be necessary for states to achieve full statewide interoperability or that level of interoperability indicated in each state's individual state homeland security strategy. The NEMA survey questions and the resulting data offered no indication as to the interoperable technologies or the degree of interoperability that might be obtained if the estimated amount of funding were to be received for these purposes by the state emergency management agency.

The CRS memorandum mischaracterizes the NEMA funding requirement estimates as a baseline for funding received, comparing them against current interoperability priorities. Again, survey data cited is no more than an estimate of funds necessary to achieve an undefined and nonspecific degree of interoperability, not estimates of funds actually received or expended. Furthermore, the interoperability priorities of 2011 are incongruent to the priorities of Fiscal Years 2006 and 2008. The spectrum allocation creating the D-Block was not complete until 2007, likely well after many of our members completed this survey request.

We respectfully request you issue a correction to the Congressional offices to



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which this report was furnished. We would also hope you would clarify our survey numbers as estimates of funds required only, not to be confused with actual expenditures. Should you or your analysts wish to discuss this issue further, please contact Matt Cowles, NEMA's Director of Government Relations, at 202-624-5459 or mcowles@csg.org. He also stands ready to assist you prior to the publication of any future reports.

NEMA appreciates that CRS sees our organization as a credible source of information and we invite you to continue to do so. We simply request that our data on interoperability be used in the proper context in your report.

Sincerely,



Jim Mullen
President, National Emergency Management Association
Director, Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division

cc: Ms. Linda K. Moore, CRS Specialist in Telecommunications Policy