

September 2, 2009



The Honorable Joe Lieberman, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
United States Senate
Room 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
United States Senate
344 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is pleased to demonstrate our support of **Richard Serino's nomination for Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency** at the Department of Homeland Security.

Richard Serino has been a leader in disaster preparation and management since the early 1990s. He has served for the last 15 years as the Chief of Boston EMS, leading it to become one of the preeminent EMS systems in the country. During his tenure as Chief of Boston EMS, Mr. Serino has played important leadership roles in the development of key initiatives such as the Metropolitan Medical Response System and the Lessons Learned Information System – now both “household” words in the emergency preparedness and response communities. He has helped plan and execute the emergency preparedness and response for numerous notable events, such as the 2004 Democratic National Convention and the annual Boston Marathon.

Serino's experience qualifies him, and we urge a speedy confirmation so that we can begin to work with him on current emergency management activities in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ J. Decker", written in a cursive style.

Russell J. Decker, CEM
President
IAEM-USA

IAEM-USA is our nation's largest association of Emergency Management professionals, with more than 4,500 members including emergency managers at the state and local government levels, tribal nations, the military, colleges and universities, private business and the nonprofit sector. Most of our members are city and county emergency managers who perform the crucial function of coordinating and integrating the efforts at the local level to prepare for, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from all types of disasters including terrorist attacks. Our membership includes emergency managers from large urban areas as well as rural areas.