

March 16, 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 Jane Holl Lute's nomination to serve in the post of Deputy Secretary at the U. S. Department of Homeland Security. Her strong academic as well as "real world" experience makes her uniquely qualified to serve our nation well in this capacity.

We believe that a subtle but important factor which should be an indicator of her success became apparent during a recent meeting between Ms. Lute and association leadership. Her willingness and eagerness to include stakeholders at all levels into the planning and decision-making process is evident. This attitude of openness and a desire to reach out to local, tribal, and state levels of government will be an important attribute to the success of this administration.

Given the importance of the mission of the Department of Homeland Security, we urge a speedy confirmation of Ms. Jane Holl Lute and look forward to working with her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell J. Decker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R".

Russell J. Decker, CEM
President
IAEM-USA