

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Mikulski:

We write to thank you for your continued support of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program, and to urge you to include full funding for RISS in the Fiscal Year 2016 CJS Appropriations Bill.

RISS allows law enforcement agencies across the country to successfully resolve criminal investigations, apprehend and prosecute offenders, and ensure officer and public safety. Agencies from across the country rely on RISS for information and intelligence sharing, officer safety event deconfliction, and investigative support services. RISS serves almost 9,000 state, local, tribal, and federal agencies, including many smaller law enforcement agencies. Through RISS, these agencies receive services and resources that otherwise would not be available to them. RISS also plays an important role in federal information sharing initiatives.

In FY 2011, RISS received \$45 million. Last year, it received \$30 million. Reductions in its funding have had an effect on RISS's law enforcement operations, although the Appropriations Committees have mitigated the potential damage by funding the program at a level higher than that requested in the President's budget for each of the past five years.

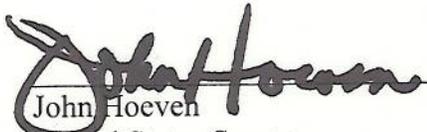
RISS supports and partners with 1,057 federal agencies, such as the National Data Exchange, the Office of the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment, the Homeland Security Information Network, the United States Secret Service's Targeted Violence Information Sharing System, the Medicaid Fraud Control Units, and the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System. Agencies seek RISS's support because of its proven, trusted, and solutions-based approach.

RISS is an innovative, cost-effective, and evidence-based program that provides an excellent return on investment for our nation. Over the last 10 years, officers leveraging RISS's services have arrested almost 47,000 offenders and seized more than \$600 million in narcotics, property, and currency. More than 40 million intelligence and investigative records are available through

RISS's Secure Cloud (RISSNET). In addition, through the RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction Systems (RISSafe), more than 321,000 undercover operations, buy-busts, and other law enforcement events have been identified as possible conflicts, thus avoiding potential blue-on-blue tragedies. Without RISS's services and resources, many more criminals, drugs, stolen property and other contraband would still be on our streets. Every day, officers use RISS to help solve cases and stay safe.

We appreciate your leadership on this and other law enforcement issues, and urge your continued support for RISS in Fiscal Year 2016. If you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact us or have your staff contact Michael Fischer with Senator Whitehouse at (202) 224-9508 or Elizabeth Frei with Senator Hoeven at (202) 224-2551.

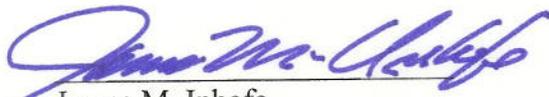
Sincerely,



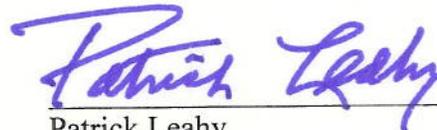
John Hoeven
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



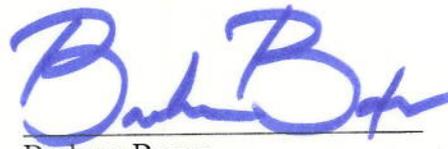
James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



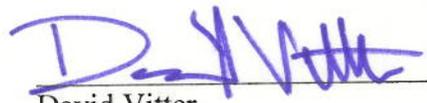
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



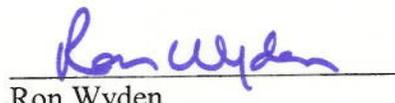
Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



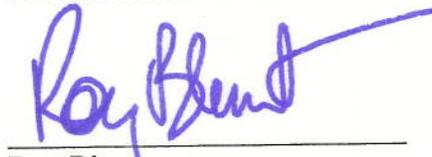
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



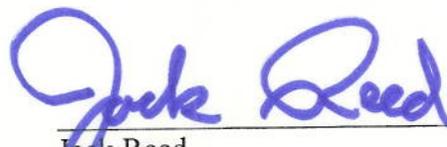
David Vitter
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



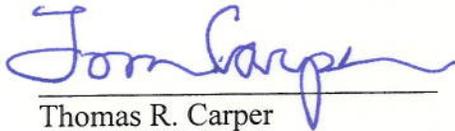
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



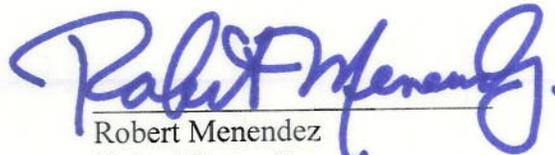
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



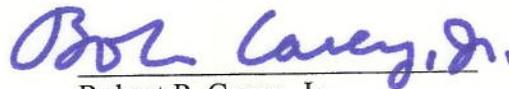
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



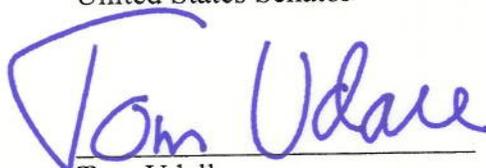
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



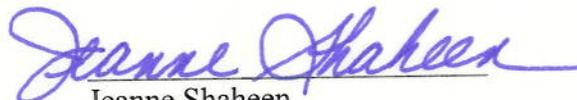
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



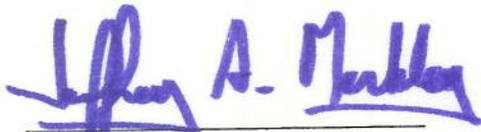
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



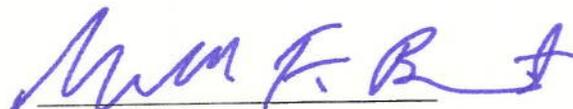
Tom Udall
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



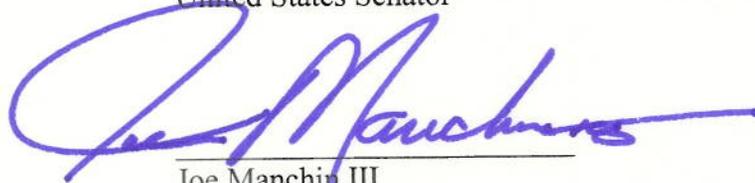
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



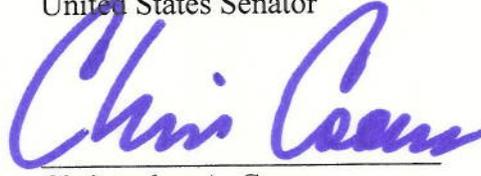
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



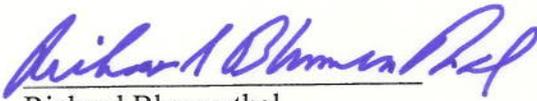
Al Franken
United States Senator



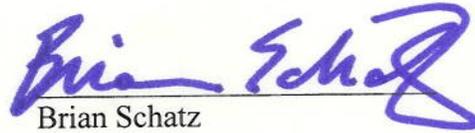
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



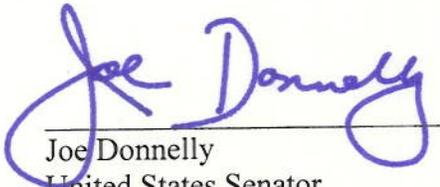
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



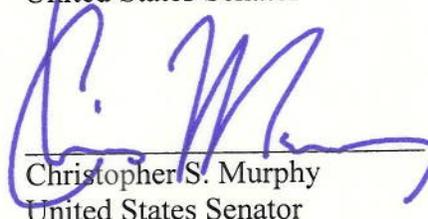
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



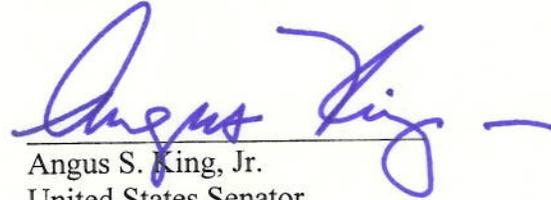
Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



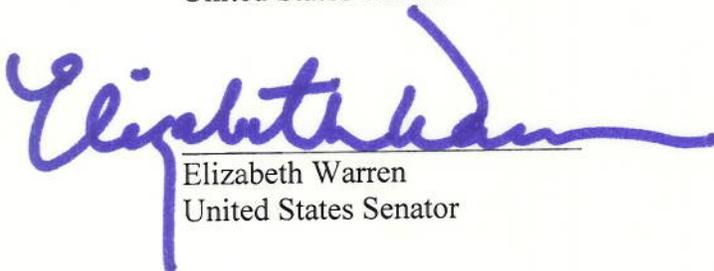
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



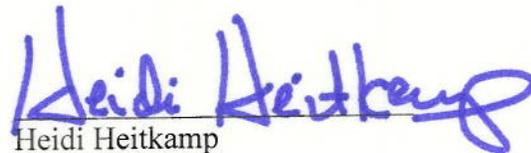
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



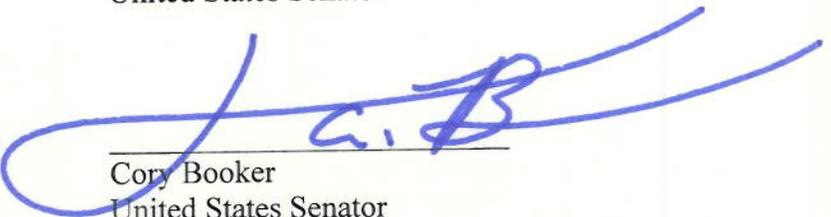
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

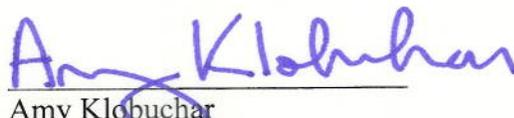


Cory Booker
United States Senator

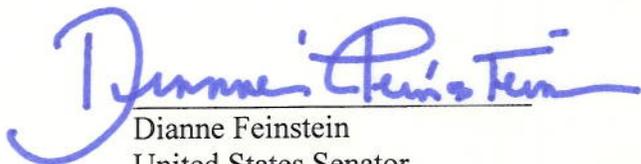
*CJS Subcommittee
RISS Support Letter FY16
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Gary Peters
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator