

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

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October 23, 2009

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Minority Member Collins:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to express our support for the nomination of Elizabeth Harman to be the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistant Administrator for the Grant Programs Directorate.

The grant programs administered by FEMA help protect our country by strengthening the preparedness of communities. The Directorate oversees the management of more than 50 grant and financial assistance programs representing approximately \$4 billion in non-disaster grant funding annually.

Elizabeth Harman is ideally suited for the position for which she has been nominated. She currently serves as director of the Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction (HazMat/WMD) Training Department at the International Association of Fire Fighters, where she manages millions of dollars in federal funding to support the largest HazMat/WMD training program of fire fighters in North America. She has also taught at Northwestern State University, the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute at the University of Maryland, and George Washington University. Previously, Ms. Harman served as a fire fighter and paramedic in Fairfax City, Virginia.

The AFL-CIO believes that as the Assistant Administrator for the Grant Programs Directorate, Ms. Harman will work to ensure that the grants process is transparent, collaborative, and consistent with the Department's major responsibilities and priorities. We encourage the committee to vote to confirm her to this important position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Samuel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being more prominent than the last name "Samuel".

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT