

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
US Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW, Mail Stop 0150
Washington, DC 20528-0150

Dear Secretary Johnson:

Earlier this month the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Florida statistical area received its 2016 MSA Risk Profile Rank. Although other regions of the country may be seeing an increase of individual risk, causing the Orlando area's rank to drop, it is our belief that Central Florida's risk is being inaccurately calculated. This dramatically affects their UASI funding and impacts the region's ability to properly prepare for potential threats and react to an event accordingly.

The Orange County Sheriff's office and Chief of Police for Orlando sent the Department of Homeland Security a letter of appeal regarding their 2016 risk profile. We write to you in support of that appeal.

The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL statistical area received funding in prior years, allowing them to purchase equipment, coordinate planning, conduct training, execute readiness exercises and enhance regional communications for all disciplines. A few examples of projects that have been funded by the UASI are the nationally recognized Fusion Center (Central Florida Intelligence Exchange), Regional Urban Search and Rescue Team (FL Task Force 4), Regional Hazardous Materials teams, Regional EOD teams and enhancements of the National Infrastructure Protection program in the Central Florida area.

With the miscalculation or the lowered ranking of the statistical area, they will not receive appropriate funding and thus the continuation of these important and similar initiatives are significantly jeopardized.

Central Florida is a target of opportunity and vulnerable to all types of terrorist activities. Orlando is ranked 4th in the Top U.S. Destinations for Foreign Travelers reported by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries. The MSA has over 2.3 million residents and the Population Index indicates 211 million additional visitor days are spent in the area yearly. It also holds the second largest college in the U.S., two international airports and countless military and defense contractors.

If Central Florida became a target, it would be a national disaster. This is why we encourage you to support Central Florida's appeal request and reassess the Risk Profile Rank.

Sincerely,



John L. Mica
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress