

The White House  
Washington

December 6, 2001

Board of Directors  
National District Attorneys Association  
99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

I regret that I was unable to attend your December Board meeting, but I look forward to working with you and America's District Attorneys, in my capacity as Director of the White House Office of Homeland Security. Thank you for understanding the demands associated with our task to develop a comprehensive national strategy to protect the country from terrorist attack. I hope to have the opportunity to meet with you in person, at some point in the future.

As Governor of Pennsylvania, I worked closely with the state's prosecutors. Moreover, some of you may know that I served several years as an Assistant District Attorney. I fully appreciate the role that each of you plays in protecting your respective communities. As we formulate our strategy for homeland security, we will request your input, as to what the local prosecutors of America can do to help promote the safety of our citizens. To this end, I will look to your association, and many others, to assist with developing a strategy to protect our communities.

As we build this plan, I ask that each of you continue to provide leadership to your cities, towns and counties, not just in times of crisis, but on a regular basis. We all recognize the need to work together to resolve some very difficult issues. By being visible leaders, you can restore great confidence in America, across the nation. We are grateful for this leadership.

As Americans, we share great pride in our country. Our collective efforts of vigilance will allow this great pride to endure, all the while securing our homeland for our children. Thank you for your efforts to keep America safe. I will look forward to discussing these matters with you in person.

With best personal regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Ridge". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line.

Tom Ridge