



NATIONAL CONFERENCE
of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas



American Association of
Motor Vehicle Administrators

February 29, 2008

W. Ross Ashley
Office of Grant Programs, FEMA
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Ashley:

On behalf of the nations' governors, legislators and motor vehicle administrators we formally request that you extend the deadline for REAL ID grant applications for at least 30 days.

With Congress having appropriated only \$90 million of the estimated \$4 billion necessary for states to comply with REAL ID, it is essential that states have adequate time to review the regulations, analyze needs and develop thoughtful implementation plans for any available federal funds.

As noted in Information Bulletin No. 277, the original guidance for the FY 2008 REAL ID Demonstration Grant Program was released on December 18, 2007. On December 26, 2007 an additional \$50 million was appropriated for REAL ID grants to states as part of the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Final regulations to guide state implementation were not published until January 11, 2008; and on January 28 the Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant Programs Directorate notified states of its intent to combine funds into a single \$79.875 million grant program using the previously released guidance.

Taken together these actions reflect significant policy shifts that require additional time for states to evaluate needs, prioritize spending and develop comprehensive proposals. We therefore ask that you work with us by formally extending the deadline for applications and providing states greater flexibility in the use of grant funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Raymond C. Scheppach".

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director
National Governors Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William T. Pound".

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Neil D. Schuster".

Neil D. Schuster
President and CEO
American Association of Motor Vehicle
Administrators

Cc: Stewart Baker, Assistant Secretary, DHS