

From:

To: Scott Englishscott@sc.gov

Marcia.Adams@SCDMV.net

Date: 2/27/2008 7:08:33 PM

Subject:

Marcia, I know you mentioned that we were going to apply independently for a grant in addition to the "hub" grant (because we didn't want to be left out of the hub if it was the only grant that looked likely to be approved), but that is now tabled (which is good news- DHS needs to be using their funding to do that)- I imagine y'all are ready to go with our independent grant request, given what has happened to the "hub" grant idea are you intending to change your strategy?

Secondly, it's particularly gratifying (even if it was an obvious choice) to be the first in that NGA REAL ID prep meeting to suggest we not play into DHS's hands and use our federal money for something they're supposed to be paying for with their departmental funding, and then to have the Governors adopt it. Everyone else in that initial meeting seemed to be too timid to suggest such a thing, even though we all knew we were being suckered. It's fairly rare that I make a suggestion at an NGA meeting representing Governor Sanford's interests and it's one that Governors themselves end up adopting. The things the rest of them want are usually way too vanilla, and rarely coincide with what Governor Sanford thinks is best. I guess there's a first time for everything.

I'm glad it worked out,

Blair

>>> DQuam@NGA.ORG 2/27/2008 5:36:48 PM >>>

To: Washington Representatives and State-Federal Contacts

Re: Governors' direction on REAL ID

During the NGA Winter Meeting, governors had a thorough discussion of the status and issues surrounding REAL ID. Several concerns were raised including ongoing concerns over privacy, what would happen to non-compliance states as of May 11, 2008, federal funding levels and the ongoing DHS grant process.

Following the discussion, a motion to provide specific guidance to NGA was adopted on a voice vote with one no vote and one abstention:

1. NGA will call on Congress to fund the OMB estimated cost for states to comply with REAL ID, which is \$4 billion over ten years.
2. NGA will tell the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) to cease its pursuit of a \$79 million grant proposal to build a "hub" to connect state and federal databases. (24 states were participating in that multistate effort.)
3. NGA will continue to work closely with DHS to address ongoing implementation concerns including addressing privacy concerns related to REAL ID and the proposed databases.

This week I contacted both DHS and AAMVA to inform them of the governors' decision. AAMVA has been encouraged to have its members contact governors offices directly to discuss governors position and the status of any grant application. Since grant applications for REAL ID are due to FEMA/DHS on March 7, NGA has suggested that NGA, AAMVA and NCSL do a joint letter to FEMA/DHS requesting an extension of the grant deadline to better coordinate funding requests.

A more thorough discussion of the issues surrounding REAL ID will take place during Monday's (March 3) Washington Representative meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (202) 624-5309.

--DCQ

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