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December 21, 2006

Mr. David Steingraber, Executive Director Office of Justice Assistance 131 West Wilson Street, Suite 610 Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Steingraber:

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning. At its December 13 meeting, the committee made a recommendation regarding your agency and requested that I forward it to you for your consideration.

The committee recommends that the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) limit the awarding of grant funds to those agencies that agree to use any equipment purchased with OJA grant funds under mutual aid agreements with other agencies. We support the idea of mutual aid and hope that you will consider including this concept in the criteria that OJA uses in making grant awards. This may provide an incentive to communities to enter into these types of agreements with other communities.

We look forward to your response to this recommendation.

We also really appreciate the assistance that you and your staff have provided the committee.

Sincerely,

Representative Joan Ballweg, Chair Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning

JB:wu