United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 2005

The Honorable William H. Frist, MD
United States Senate Majority Leader
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Majority Leader,

We are writing to let you know of our support of S. 2082, bi-partisan legislation introduced by Senators Sununu and Leahy, that would provide a three month extension of the expiring provisions of the PATRIOT Act and the lone wolf provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act in the event the Senate is unable to gain agreement on a conference report to reauthorize these provisions.

We sincerely hope that House and Senate negotiators will reach agreement this week on a reauthorization bill that balances the needs of law enforcement with civil liberty protections for innocent Americans. However, if such an agreement cannot be reached before both Houses adjourn this week, federal law enforcement officials should continue to have use of the investigative tools of the PATRIOT Act. A three month extension of the expiring provisions of the PATRIOT Act and the lone wolf provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act will accomplish this goal.

As you, President Bush, Attorney General Gonzales and others have emphatically noted in recent days, the PATRIOT Act provides important tools for federal law enforcement officials to investigate and prevent terrorist attacks. Therefore, these law enforcement tools should remain in place should our work on final reauthorization legislation take us into the new year.

Sincerely,

John E. Sununu

Patrick Leahy

Larry E. Craig

Charles Schumer

Lisa Murkowski

Harry Reid

Chuck Hagel

Jay Rockefeller

Barbara Boxer

Jack Reed

Byron L. Dorgan

Ben Nelson

Joe Lieberman

Dianne Feinstein

Robert C. Byrd

Dick Durbin

Kent Dorgan

Chris Dodd

Carl Levin

Susan M. Collins

Tim Johnson

Bob Dole

Tom Carper

Maria Cantwell

Barbara A. Mikulski

Frank R. Lautenberg

Paul S. Sarbanes

Mark Dayton

Patty Murray

Joe Lieberman

Jim Jeffords

Blanche L. Lincoln

Ron Wyden

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Ken Salazar

Tom Harkin

Bill Nelson

Mike Crapo

Debbie Stabenow

Herb Kohl