

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois Applied Research Institute
2100 South Oak Street, Suite 206
Champaign, IL 61820



June 12, 2015

James Page
Executive Director
Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System
1701 East Main Street
Urbana, IL 61802

Subject: Department of Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure Resilience Center of Excellence

Dear Mr. Page,

Earlier this week it was announced that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been selected by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to lead a five-year, \$20 million center to improve the resiliency of our nation's critical infrastructure. The Critical Infrastructure Resilience Center of Excellence (CIRCoE) is funded through a grant – anticipated at \$20 million over five years – from the DHS. The Illinois bid was led by the Illinois Applied Research Institute (ARI) and the Information Trust Institute (ITI).

Not only is this a great win for the University of Illinois, it is a great win for the critical infrastructure community as a whole. This Center will serve as a nationwide hub of research and innovation that will bring researchers and stakeholders from across the nation together to collaboratively research, develop, refine, and transition to the field a wide array of innovative policies, prescriptions, practices, tools and techniques for enhancing the integrity and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure.

On behalf of ARI, as well as David Nicol, PhD, Director of ITI, and the entire CIRCoE team, let me extend our sincere thanks to you and your staff for delivering a strong letter of support for inclusion in our proposal. Your support clearly made an impact on DHS as they noted, "In all cases the proposer is reaching out beyond government to asset owners and operators and organizations that would actually benefit from the research results and participation." Indeed, we look forward to identifying opportunities to collaborate with you and your organization to ensure that the Center delivers the impact that we all desire.

Thank you again for your most generous assistance to our winning cause and your commitment to engage with us going forward.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Binder, Ph. D., MBA
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