



January 31, 2018

The Honorable Dan Donovan
Chairman
House Homeland Security Subcommittee on
Emergency Preparedness, Response
and Communications
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Donald Payne
Ranking Member
House Homeland Security Subcommittee on
Emergency Preparedness, Response
and Communications
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Donovan and Ranking Member Payne:

On behalf of the Security Industry Association (SIA), I would like to express our strong support for H.R. 4627, the *Shielding Public Spaces from Vehicular Terrorism Act*, which would assist our communities in addressing this evolving threat. SIA is a non-profit international trade association representing nearly 800 companies that provide security and life safety solutions vital to enhancing public safety.

H.R. 4627 requires the DHS Science and Technology Directorate to engage in research and development activities to address emerging terrorist threats such as vehicular attacks, and stipulates that federal homeland security grants can be used to address "security vulnerabilities of public spaces, including through the installation of bollards and other target hardening activities."

Unfortunately, public areas and places where crowds gather for events have become targets for vehicular attacks around the world and recently in New York City and Charlottesville, VA. In addition to purposeful attacks, accidents involving vehicles and buildings or crowded events injure thousands and kill hundreds of Americans every year.

The strategic placement of bollards, traffic control systems and other security barriers in key locations are critical to protecting the public in these locations, and require significant security and engineering expertise to deploy affordably and effectively. As you know, these safety systems saved countless lives in Times Square during an incident on May 18, 2017, stopping a vehicle used in a ramming attack by a drugged driver.

We believe leadership and assistance from DHS is critical as many community leaders responsible for public safety seek to increase these protections. SIA and its members stand ready to serve as a resource to you as you continue work on this critical issue. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Erickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Don" and last name "Erickson" clearly legible.

Don Erickson
CEO
Security Industry Association