July 6, 2018

Ruth McBurney, CHP
Executive Director
Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors
1030 Burlington Lane, Suite 4B
Frankfort, KY  40601

Dear Ms. McBurney,

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to support the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) cooperative agreement proposal to be submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (CDC-RFA-EH18-1803) entitled, “Radiation Protection of the Public as Practiced by the State and Local Radiation Programs”. ASTHO believes that continued partnership with CRCPD fosters an ability to support, equip, and advocate for state and territorial health officials in their work of advancing the public’s health and well-being.

ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing public health agencies in the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia, and over 100,000 public health professionals these agencies employ. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, formulate and influence sound public health policy and ensure excellence in state-based public health practice.

Continued collaboration with CRCPD is valuable in ensuring that the U.S. public health system is poised to respond to a public health crisis. This funding award to CRCPD will facilitate the further development of our constructive partnership, enabling the work of both of our organizations to more effectively address pressing public health challenges and protect national health security. CRCPD is critical in advancing the practice of radiation protection and continues to deliver on its mission to promote consistency in addressing and resolving radiation protection issues, to encourage high standards of quality in radiation protection programs, and to provide leadership in radiation safety and education.

Partnership with CRCPD was integral in the establishment of the National Alliance for Radiation Readiness (NARR) where ASTHO and CRCPD hold two of the three tri-chair seats for the alliance. Over the decade, the organizations have tackled the challenge to provide a collective “voice of health” in radiological preparedness. From the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster to the more recent uncertainties around impending international threats, coordination with CRCPD and their members has been crucial to a coordinated response for state and territorial health agencies.
ASTHO enthusiastically supports CRCPD in this application and we look forward to a continued partnership in strengthening public health preparedness and response. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 371-9090.

Sincerely,

Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE, FCPP
Chief Executive Officer