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July 19, 2018

Melanie Chansky, MAA
Senior Study Director
Westat
1650 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Ms. Chansky:

On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment to participate with Westat in its pursuit of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) project entitled "Improving Public Health Preparedness and Response to Drought through the Assessment of Current Knowledge, Practices, and Gaps in State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Programs." If awarded, ASTHO will participate by disseminating the assessment to Directors of Public Health Preparedness at state health departments and health departments in U.S Territories.

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's primary function is to track, evaluate, and advise members on the impact and formation of public or private health policy which may affect them and to provide them with guidance and technical assistance on improving the nation's health. Our Preparedness Team works closely with Directors of Public Health Preparedness in the 62¹ jurisdictions funded for public health preparedness. As this assessment on the inclusion of public health in drought preparedness and response activities could impact future CDC policies or programs, ASTHO wants to ensure that our members have the opportunity to participate and make their voices heard.

ASTHO looks forward to working with Westat on this important project and assisting State and Territorial health agencies address drought concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Fraser, PhD MS CAE FCPP
Chief Executive Officer
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

¹ States, Territories, Freely Associated States and Directly Funded Cities.