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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

April 2, 2002

The Honorable Tom Ridge  
Assistant to the President for Homeland Security  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Governor Ridge:

The Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing to discuss legislation to establish a Department of National Homeland Security on April 11 at 9:30 a.m. in room 342 Dirksen. The Committee requests that you testify on this critical issue of how to organize the federal government to promote homeland security. As Director of the Office of Homeland Security, you have a unique vantage point on the weaknesses in the current federal efforts and the need for change. The Committee seeks your views on the proposed legislation as well as on your own proposals to reorganize to meet threats to this country on our own soil.

The proposed legislation would create a Department of National Homeland Security, to be led by a cabinet Secretary who will be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Under the original bill (S. 1534), the Department would include the U.S. Customs Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Border Patrol of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and several other programs addressing critical infrastructure protection and domestic preparedness. The Secretary would be a member of the National Security Council, and have direct control over those agencies which are central to our capacity to protect our borders and critical infrastructure, while preparing for, and if necessary responding to, another terrorist attack. A new draft of the bill also incorporates several key concepts from Senator Graham's proposed legislation, S. 1449. Specifically, the new draft would create a statutory office in the White House to focus on terrorism, run by a Senate confirmed-director. A copy of this revised draft will be available for your consideration next week.

Given your role in homeland security, especially the knowledge and experience you have gained since the President appointed you on October 8, 2001, it is critical for the Committee to hear your perspectives as we consider legislation designed to vastly improve our government's ability to protect our homeland. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible, and to working with you on this vitally important matter.

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman  
Chairman

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cc: Brett  
LSB