

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 30, 2002

Dear Chairman Byrd and Senator Stevens:

Thank you for your April 17 letter to Assistant to the President for Homeland Security Tom Ridge renewing your previous invitations for him to testify before the Committee.

We look forward to working with you and the committee as deliberations begin on the fiscal year "02" supplemental, and fiscal year "03" appropriations bills. As you are aware, the Secretaries of Transportation, Agriculture, State, Treasury, Interior, Defense, Health & Human Services as well as the Attorney General and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency are scheduled to testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee on the President's funding requests for homeland security.

Regarding your request, Governor Ridge and his staff remain fully prepared to meet with you and to provide appropriate briefings to you, the Committee, and Committee staff. Consistent with the policy long maintained by the Executive Branch and long respected by the Congress, Presidential advisors such as Governor Ridge do not formally testify before Congress on policy matters.

Thank you again for your letter. We look forward to continuing to consult and work with you on homeland security issues.

Sincerely,



Nicholas E. Calio  
Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510