Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank both of you. We much appreciate your work.

I would ask unanimous consent that my full statement be included in the record.

And I am not going to read it. Let me just try to get both questions out to both of you and then

each of you respond. I want to go back to Senator Biden’s map. The

headline also here in the New York Times is ‘‘Refugees Are Dying

as Aid Goes Unused.’’ There are six million Afghans that are at

risk in the north because the humanitarian assistance is not reaching them.

I wanted to, I guess, be critical in the question that I am going

to put to you. It seems to me that we can dither around with a lot

more sort of meetings and discussions and we can at least target

the supply routes which are actually critical to delivering the humanitarian

aid. We are not talking about blue helmet. I think Senator

Biden is saying the same thing. It can be a multinational forcewith the blessing of the U.N.

I guess between the banditry and the snow—actually, some of us

have raised this question going back to October, and I think for

months actually we have been focused on this. So I guess I want

to—and I know that the administration to a certain extent has

been pushing back on this idea. But I just want to say to you, I

do not think we have much more time, and in fact I do not think

time is neutral at all and if we do not get this done then it is going to be too late.

So I want to try and maybe have more discussion with you on

this, because it is not as if this has not been the question we have been raising over and over again.

Then the second point that I want to mention is this whole question

of reconstruction. We were talking earlier, Mr. Chairman, both

to Richard and Christina and I was saying that I am glad that we

have an opportunity to talk about political and economic reconstruction.

But it has been a decade of neglect, and I think the

United States in partnership with the international community has

got to be willing to make a multi-year, multi-national, multi-billion dollar effort to rebuild Afghanistan.

I think Senator Biden mentioned this. We have promised that we

would lead the way. The United Nations—according to the United

Nations, the bill for reconstruction will be in excess of $10 billion,

and other estimates say $12 to $15 billion. So far we have pledged

$320 million and that is for humanitarian relief, and we have made

no specific commitment so far for reconstruction and recovery.

I would be interested in, how much money do you see the United

States contributing to the world effort for Afghan reconstruction?

Those are the two questions. In 20 seconds: I did not say that we could

put together a force that would provide security for every single

truck on the ground. I said earlier that we can target the supply

routes that were critical. Frankly, I do not think right now we can

rely on Northern Alliance or Afghan forces to do this, and we do not have a lot of time.

So I cannot quite understand your pushing back on the idea of

some kind of international force coming in and targeting the actual

supply routes which we know are critical. Otherwise, you have got

around six million people—and I will go back to the headline today,

which I do not think is melodramatic: ‘‘Refugees Dying As Aid Goes

Unused.’’ That is really what I am talking about. I do not think we

have met that challenge. I do not know why. Minnesota.

This has been going on for 11 years. Senator Allen. Mr. Chairman, if you want, Senator Biden

said that he would come right back. I can stay while we start the next witness, just to keep it going.

Then there will be a brief break and thenwe will hear from the second panel. We can start——

Well, let us just take a break. Let us just go vote. Second panel. Is that all right with you, second panel?

Would the Senator from Nebraska give me just 10 seconds, since I did not realize we had the votes and, I want

to apologize to both of you, I have to leave in a couple minutes, and

I will read what you said and get back to you. I apologize.