

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2006

The Honorable Judd Gregg, Chairman  
The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Gregg and Ranking Member Byrd:

As you know, the Senate recently voted to include almost \$1 billion for port security in the Fiscal Year 2007 budget. We strongly support these additional funds for port security and urge you to include them in the FY 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. We ask that you target those additional funds to increase the number of containers scanned at U.S. ports and abroad, increase staff and funding under existing port security programs, increase specific funds for the port security grant program, and to increase research and development of new port security technology.

The goal of the United States must be to inspect, using both physical and non-invasive methods, 100 percent of all cargo containers entering the United States. Currently, only 5 percent of cargo containers entering the U.S. are either physically examined or x-rayed. The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) "screens" cargo based on manifests and other intelligence information. However, it is evident that shipping manifests are often incorrect or incomplete and are therefore not a credible means for ensuring that cargo containers are safe. Dependence on the accuracy and integrity of such manifests does not serve to improve our homeland security defenses at our ports and beyond. The 9-11 Commission has warned us that the potential for harm still exists in maritime and surface transportation and we must heed those warnings.

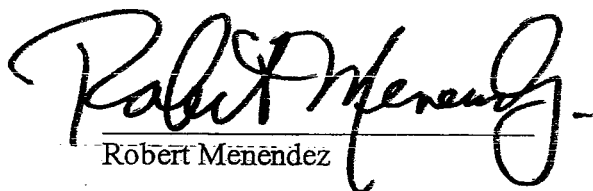
We need to take advantage of technologies that can scan the interior of a container and create an image of the contents so that thorough inspections are possible. If we provide increased funding for such inspections then images can be viewed in real time back in the United States so that homeland security experts can determine whether the contents match the manifest and evaluate any security risk posed by a container. When this technology is combined with radioactivity scanning, our security experts are better able to find dangerous materials before they reach our homeland.


We ask that you include the following provisions within the FY 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill to increase scanning and inspection of cargo containers as part of the additional \$1 billion: \$105 million to purchase this container scanning for ports in the United States to include funds for both Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs)

and gamma/x-ray imaging technologies; \$50 million to help developing countries scan and inspect containers as ports in these countries are of particular concern given their potential targeting by terrorists; \$10 million to improve technology to respond to increased scanning abroad for additional staff, training, and technology acquisition; \$100 million for 400 new staff to increase inspections and improve the current system to identify high-risk containers and to enhance the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and Container Security Initiative (CSI) programs; \$600 million to triple the current funding level in the Port Security Grant Program; and \$100 million for research and development of next-generation and second generation technologies for scanning and inspection to locate contraband material in the shipping containers.

We all agree that we must protect our nation's critical infrastructure, including our ports, and that we must target vulnerabilities which could be exploited by terrorists who want to hurt both the American people and our economy. We believe that investing almost one billion additional dollars in port security is a critical step in protecting our nation and urge you to support this additional funding. We believe that the votes to support increases in port security during consideration of the President's Budget mean we must do whatever it takes to protect our homeland and we urge you and the Committee to include these funds.


Sincerely,

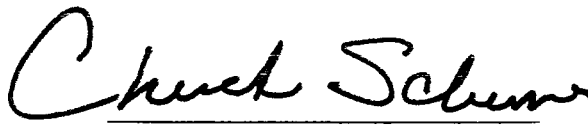
  
Robert Menéndez

  
Hillary R. Clinton

  
Frank R. Lautenberg


  
Barbara A. Mikulski

  
Bill Nelson

  
Charles E. Schumer

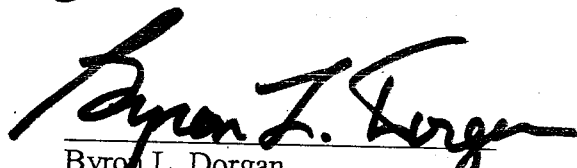
  
Richard Durbin

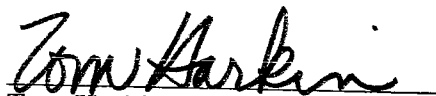
  
Barbara Boxer

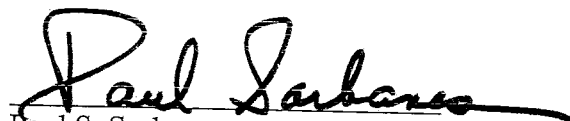
  
Joseph R. Biden

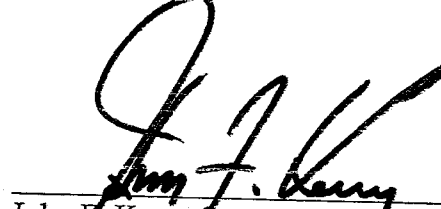
  
Debbie Stabenow

  
Joseph I. Lieberman


  
Byron L. Dorgan

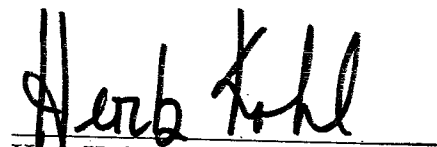
  
Tom Harkin

  
Paul S. Sarbanes

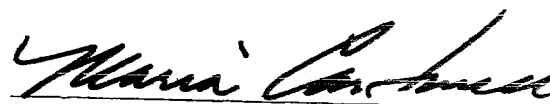
  
John F. Kerry

  
Edward M. Kennedy

  
Christopher J. Dodd

  
Herb Kohl

  
Daniel K. Akaka

  
Maria Cantwell