

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 1, 2007

Mr. H. Lee Scott, Jr.  
President  
Chief Executive Officer  
Wal-Mart Stores Incorporated  
702 Southwest Eighth Street  
Bentonville, Arkansas 72716

Dear Mr. Scott:

As America's largest importer of foreign goods, Wal-Mart is uniquely poised to advocate and to advance new standards for the scanning of United States-bound cargo containers. Unscanned containers pose a substantial risk to our homeland security, threatening our ports as well as the larger American public. We believe that Wal-Mart's unequivocal support for a proposal that would ensure the scanning of 100% of all incoming cargo would not only strengthen the call for this important and necessary safeguard, but it would also signal Wal-Mart's commitment to protecting our national homeland security.

We understand Wal-Mart's concern that mandating across the board cargo scanning might disrupt the importation of products and inhibit the ability of retailers to keep their shelves stocked. However, we contend that such concerns are unfounded. As demonstrated by the Integrated Container Information System (ICIS) pilot program, technological advancements that promise 100% cargo container scanning without disruption to commerce are developing. The progress made by this program demonstrates that scanning proposals that would phase in scanning requirements over a period of three to five years are feasible and practical.

We learned on September 11<sup>th</sup> that those intent on destroying our American way of life are keenly focused on exposing our vulnerabilities. Because our ports serve as the gateway to our country and its economy, they remain attractive targets uniquely susceptible to terrorist attack. We ask for Wal-Mart's cooperation and support in shoring up what is one of our most glaring national homeland security weaknesses – the security of our ports – by advocating for 100% scanning of U.S.-bound cargo containers.

Sincerely,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Chuck Schumer

Robert M. Kennedy

Frank R. Lautenberg

Bill DeLoach

John Edgar Hoover

Edward M. Kennedy

John F. Kerry

Dianne Feinstein