

# 9/11

## *Public Discourse Project*

June 16, 2005

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The Honorable Michael Chertoff  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

We write with respect to last year's final report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission) and subsequent legislative action, including Public Law 108-458 (The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004).

Specifically, we are interested in actions by the Department of Homeland Security to implement the recommendations of the Commission and relevant portions of PL 108-458, including Title IV (Transportation Security); Title V (Border Protection, Immigration and Visa Matters); Title VII, Subtitle B (Terrorist Travel and Effective Screening), Subtitle C (National Preparedness) and Subtitle D (Homeland Security); and Title VIII.

The purpose of our inquiry is to assess the performance of departments and agencies of the government—both through panel discussions and the issuance of a “report card” to the public on the Commission’s recommendations one year later—on steps taken to make the American people safer and more secure.

We would appreciate your comments specifically on steps taken at the Department of Homeland Security this past year on Commission recommendations to:

- combine terrorist travel intelligence, operations, and law enforcement in a strategy to intercept terrorists, find terrorist travel facilitators, and constrain terrorist mobility;
- integrate a border security system into a larger network of screening points that includes our transportation system and access to vital facilities;
- complete, as quickly as possible, a biometric entry-exit screening system, including a single system for speeding qualified travelers;
- exchange terrorist information with trusted allies, and raise U.S. and global standards for travel and border crossing;

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- identify and evaluate transportation assets that need to be protected, set risk-based priorities for defending them, select the most practical and cost-effective ways of doing so, and then develop a plan, budget, and funding to implement the effort;
- improve the use of “no-fly” and “automatic selectee” lists, with the screening function performed by TSA, utilizing the larger set of watchlists maintained by the federal government;
- give priority attention to improving the ability of screening checkpoints to detect explosives on passengers;
- base homeland security assistance strictly on an assessment of risks and vulnerabilities;
- make homeland security funding contingent on aggressive and realistic training in accordance with Incident Command System and unified command procedures;
- promote the adoption of the American National Standards Institute’s recommended standard for private sector preparedness; and
- assess the types of threats the country faces, the adequacy of the government’s plans – and progress against those plans – to protect our critical infrastructure, and the readiness of the government to respond to those threats.

We thank you in advance for your time and attention to these questions, and any additional observations you wish to make. We do not seek to duplicate the extensive reporting requirements of PL 108-458. Our purpose is to inform the American public about efforts underway to protect them. We would appreciate your reply by August 15, 2005.

On behalf of the former Commissioners, we would also like to invite you to meet with us, privately or publicly, to discuss these topics.

Should you or your office have any questions, please feel free to contact us directly or through the 9/11 Public Discourse Project.

With best regards,

Thomas H. Kean

Lee H. Hamilton

CC: Andrew H. Card, Jr.