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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3214

May 18, 2007

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you about my concern with what seems to be the Department of Homeland Security's lack of progress in readying the nation's critical infrastructure and key resources to withstand a terrorist attack, an accident, or a natural event. Recognizing that the overwhelming majority of the nation's infrastructure resources are owned, leased, or operated by the private sector, our government must cooperate with these parties. While much attention of late has rightfully been put on the nation's chemical industry and its associated infrastructures, other vulnerable entities such as financial services, transportation, and public health also must be addressed.

From the outset of your tenure at DHS, you have focused on the evaluation of "risk" at the center of the analysis and decision-making. I applaud that vision, but I am concerned about the pace of implementing effective risk analysis. From my own discussions with industry leaders and other Members of Congress, there is widespread agreement that risk has to be a fundamental consideration before any important resource allocation and other risk mitigation decisions can be made. However, the Department's progress in understanding risk throughout the seventeen critical infrastructures and key resources is of growing concern. In the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), one methodology is singled out for use in every sector: Risk Analysis and Management for Critical Asset Protection (RAMCAP™), as developed by ASME-Innovative Technologies Institute. To date, the process has only been tailored to five infrastructure areas (chemical manufacturing plants, nuclear power plants, nuclear spent fuel storage and transportation, petroleum refineries, and LNG terminals), with two more underway (water & wastewater utilities and conventional dams & navigational locks).

Therefore, I respectfully request that you share the Department's plans for assessing and managing the nation's risks, both for today and in the future, including the use of RAMCAP™ to evaluate the remainder of the infrastructure areas. As we seek to make informed decisions on policies, budgets and programs, Congress requires operational direction and action in moving forward to protect our critical infrastructures.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

cc:
The Honorable Frances Townsend

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