



**TESTIMONY OF
PAUL A. SCHNEIDER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
*May 14, 2008***

Chairman Lieberman, Senator Collins and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as you consider my nomination by the President to be the Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

I am deeply honored and humbled that President Bush has nominated me to serve this great country and its people, and I thank Secretary Chertoff for his support throughout this process. If confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity and privilege to continue to serve under his direction, in this position of great responsibility, with the dedicated men and women who are working to secure our homeland and defend our freedoms.

I would like to recognize my wife Leslie, cousin Carolyn Griffin and several of our friends who have joined me here today. Also, present are key members of the staff of the Office of the Deputy Secretary who simply put, ensure the place runs properly.

I will continue to focus on the specific priorities that I established when the President designated me as the Acting Deputy Secretary.

They include:

1. Preparing for the Transition
2. Executing Department wide operations planning and coordination
3. Executing our major programs

4. Being able to respond to a national incident whether man made or a natural disaster

I hope that my continued willingness to serve the public trust, integrity, competence, and ability to accomplish significant and challenging objectives demonstrate the skill set and experience needed to meet the significant responsibility required by the Deputy Secretary's charge.

If confirmed, I commit to working with you and your staff, other governmental departments and agencies, business (large and small), and our international partners to make a contribution to securing our homeland for today and tomorrow.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to appear here today.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.